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CORRESPONDENCE OF  
LADY BURGHESSE  
WITH THE  
DUKE OF WELLINGTON

EDITED BY HER DAUGHTER  
LADY ROSE WEIGALL

WITH PORTRAITS

LONDON

JOHN MURRAY ALBEMARLE STREET W

1903



## PREFACE.

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THE reason for the publication of this correspondence is that some of the few survivors of those who lived in intimacy with the Duke of Wellington during the latter years of his life have felt that some recent publications, while doing the fullest justice to his great genius and brilliant services, have unintentionally done injustice to his character as a man, representing him as hard, stern, and unsympathetic—one to be greatly admired and feared, but not loved : one who has been described as sitting in his old age “lonely in the bleak and comfortless surroundings that he chose ; while friendship and family affection passed him by.” This has so jarred on those who recollect the very different reality that it has been felt desirable to give, as far as possible, in his own words, some idea of what he was to his own friends and family ; and Lady Rose Weigall has therefore reluctantly yielded to the request to let these letters be published with the addition of only a few explanatory notes and recollections.

Some of the letters which are of comparatively trifling importance in themselves, have been included in the



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## CHAPTER I.

### THE PENINSULA, WATERLOO, &c.

1809—1822.

WHEN John Fane, 10th Earl of Westmorland, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, an office which he held from 1790 to 1795, Arthur Wellesley, then a young captain in the 58th foot, was appointed one of his aides-de-camp.

Seventeen years later, when Sir Arthur Wellesley went to Portugal in command of an expedition, he took on his staff the son of his old chief, who had already seen service under General Don in Hanover, and under General Wauchope in Egypt. Lord Burghersh took part in the battles of Roliça and Vimiero, and accompanied Wellesley to England after the Convention of Cintra, which is referred to in the first letter of the series.

He returned to the Peninsula with Sir Arthur in 1809, but was invalided home after the Battle of Talavera; and in 1811 he married Priscilla Anne, daughter of the Rt. Hon. William Wellesley Pole, Earl of Mornington, and niece of Sir Arthur Wellesley. She had been a favourite of his from

childhood. In those early days he was on terms of closest affection with his brother William and Mrs. Pole, and one of his niece's earliest recollections was of the joy in the family when "Arthur" arrived at their house on his return from India. It was late in the evening, and the little girls had gone to bed, but he was impatient to see them, so their mother woke them and brought them down in their night-gowns. They on first seeing him took him for their Uncle, Rev. Hon. Gerald Wellesley, the Duke's next brother, afterward Dean of Durham, whom he at that time was very like, and could not realize that he was the wonderful uncle from India of whom they had heard so much. The following summer he spent some time with them at Brighton.

to those two cities. In 1825, on the accession of Francis I. to the throne of the Two Sicilies, Lord Burghersh was despatched to Naples on a special mission of congratulation.

*To Lord Burghersh.*

DUBLIN CASTLE,

*Jan. 11, 1809.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I have received your letter of the 5th, and I have put the memorial of your friend in a train of examination, and that which can be done will be done for him.

The report of the Court of Enquiry\* is indeed an extraordinary production. Opinions, like colours, are now matters of taste, and may in this view of them be inconsistent with each other. But a Court of this description ought, if it touches facts, to state them correctly, and a principal member, if he observes upon the subject, ought not to pass unnoticed or to contradict the principal fact bearing upon the question on which he observes.

Ever yours most sincerely,

ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

\* On the Convention of Cintra.

*Docket by Lord Burghersh.*

Lord Wellington had taken both Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz, and General Hill had taken and destroyed the French Bridge of Boats at Almaraz. Lord W.'s prediction of a successful campaign was not mistaken. He gained the battle of Salamanca on July 22nd, and prepared for the operations of 1813.

FUENTE GUINALDO,

*May 25, 1812.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

Some time has elapsed since I have written to you, and indeed I have never answered a very long letter which I received from you shortly after you was married, for which I was very much obliged to you, although I have never replied to it.

I think we are now in a great situation. The blow which I made Hill strike a few days ago upon the enemy's establishment at Almaraz has given me the choice of lines of operation for the remainder of the campaign; and do what we will we shall be *safe*. If I have luck we may do great things; at all events the campaign is ours, I believe.

The French, however, are confoundedly strong. I reckoned that Marmont and Soult could have assembled 60,000 men to raise the siege of Badajoz; the former leaving from 13 to 16,000 in Castille and Leon; and the latter maintaining the blockade of Cadiz, and garrisoning Seville, Malaga, and Granada. But I see in an intercepted letter from the chief engineer with Soult to the Duc de Valmy he says that we had "*enlevé* Badajoz à la barbe de 80,000 hommes" which might have been assembled.

By our blow at Almaraz we have cut off the best, indeed I may say the only, military communication by which these bodies are connected; and if I can subsist in advance I may operate in safety upon that part of them that I choose. This is a great blow therefore, and it has already been attended by the advantage of making the enemy give up all their plans and I think has misled them respecting mine.

So we stand at this moment, and I think you will agree that our situation is rather better than it was when Slade told you in the garden by the Coa that I should establish a character as an officer for ever if I could get the army out of Portugal in safety.



I hope that Priscilla is quite well. Pray give my best love to her, and believe me,

Ever yours, my dear Burghersh,

Most affecy.,

WELLINGTON.

The *Mare* is still in high order and her *back* quite well.

NEVADA,

*April 27, 1813.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 3rd of March, but not yet your glass, which is I suppose travelling up to me in charge of some of the officers coming to join the army; and I am very much obliged to you for your recollection and kindness.

I have not written to Burghersh lately as I have had nothing interesting to tell him; but the Army will move in a few days; when matters will be in train and will become interesting, and if I should have leisure, I will write to him.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

ST. JEAN DE LUZ,

*January 12, 1814.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I have received your several letters\* to the 19th December, and I am very much obliged to you for the interesting details which they contain.

You will have seen the official accounts of our proceedings, and the Ministers will most probably have made you or Lord Aberdeen acquainted with the state of affairs here, as detailed to them in my Reports.

I was obliged to put the Spanish army into cantonments as soon as I passed the Nivelle. It would have been useless to attempt to keep them in the state in which they were, and I should have lost them all. This circumstance, but more particularly the state of the roads from the constant bad weather, have cramped my operations since, but I hope that I shall soon be able to renew them in style. In the meantime Soult has received another large reinforcement, being the third since the battle of Vittoria.

\* "A memoir of the operations of the allied armies under Prince Schwartzberg and Marshal Blucher in 1813-14." These letters were written by Lord Burghersh from the Headquarters of the Allied Armies in Germany, and were published in 1822.

We have found the French people exactly what we might expect (not from the lying accounts in the French newspapers, copied into all the others of the world and believed by everybody, notwithstanding the internal sense of every man of their falsehood, but) from what we know of the Government of Napoleon, and the oppressions of all descriptions under which his subjects have laboured. It is not easy to describe the detestation of this man. What do you think of the French people running into our posts for protection from the French troops, with their bundles on their heads and their beds, as you recollect to have seen the people of Portugal and Spain?

I entertain no doubt that, if the war should continue and it should suit the policy of the Allied Powers to declare for the House of Bourbon, the whole of France will rise as one man in their favour, with the exception possibly of some of the *Préfets* and of the Senate, and that they will be replaced on the Throne with the utmost ease. I think it probable that the Allies will at last be obliged to take this line; as you will see the trick that Bony has endeavoured to play by his Treaty with King Ferdinand.\*

\* Napoleon, being pressed for troops, proposed to Ferdinand, whom he had ousted from the throne of Spain and

If Priscilla is with you give my best love to her. I received her letter from Berlin, and I have sat to Mr. Heaphy\* for a picture for her, which I suppose will be sent to her, unless one of her sisters or her mother should seize it.

Ever, my dear Burghersh,

Yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

VIENNA,

February 17, 1815.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I will not allow the messenger to go to Florence without writing one line to ask how you are. I have heard that you had been unwell lately; but I hope you are now quite recovered as well as Burghersh. I left *Mama*, &c.† all well at Paris on the 24th of last month. She has gone to England since, I believe. The others remain.

kept as a prisoner, to restore him on condition that English and French troops should be withdrawn from the Kingdom. The offer, however, was refused.

\* Miniature now in the possession of Lady Rose Weigall.

† Mrs. Wellesley Pole (afterwards Lady Maryborough), his sister-in-law and Lady Burghersh's mother. The "&c." refers to her other daughter, Lady FitzRoy Somerset, and her husband.

Stewart\* writes to Burghersh all the news and therefore I don't write to him. Remember me to him most kindly, and believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

VIENNA,

*March 13, 1815.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I return you many thanks for your letters and am glad to find you are getting better. I also have had one of our colds in the hot rooms here but I am getting better.

God bless you, dearest Priscilla.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

At the Congress of Vienna Lord Castlereagh was the representative of England in 1814, but in 1815 he was succeeded in that capacity by the Duke of Wellington.

Bonaparte landed at Cannes on March 1, 1815, after escaping from Elba. The first intelligence of his escape was brought to Vienna by a messenger sent from Florence by Lord Burghersh.

\* Sir C. Stewart, afterwards Lord Londonderry.

VIENNA,

March 13, 1815.

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

Many thanks for your letters which I have received to the 6th inclusive. Bony's conduct is very extraordinary, and in my opinion certainly the *effet d'Illusion*. We ought to have known of his intention before he put it into execution, and then we might have hoped to have had some of our six sail of the line with their &c., &c., now in the Mediterranean, off the island by the 26th.

Here we are all zeal, and, I think, anxiety to take the field. I moderate these sentiments as much as possible, and get them on paper; and in the meantime am working at a great exertion in case things should become serious in France. But I think the King will settle the business himself, which is the result most to be wished.

I'll inclose our declaration \* if I can get one.

I write a line to Priscilla. I have desired Lord FitzRoy to send you your picture.

Ever yours most affecy.,

WELLINGTON.

Remember me most kindly to Cooke, whose letter I have received.

\* The declaration against Napoleon.

VIENNA,

*March 22, 1815.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I have received your letter and despatches of the 16th. I have no more instructions from England respecting Murat than you have, and can give you none.

He has offered the Austrians, and even the King of France, to join in the general confederacy against Napoleon, which offer has not yet been accepted by either; and in regularity he ought not to march, and in marching he commits an act of direct hostility against the Pope, against Austria, and against the World.

It may be questioned whether that act of hostility can or ought now to be resented, if Murat should himself gloss it over with the profession of good intentions. When I say "it may be questioned," I hope you will believe that I consider it only a question of Means; and that if the Austrians had the means, they ought forthwith to fall upon him. I take it, however, to be almost certain that unless he has coupled this act of hostility with a declaration that he intends to be King of Italy he will not be attacked, and I recommend to you to shape your course accordingly.

Our last accounts from Paris are of the 14th. At that time matters were in a very uncertain state ; and although I understand that the Legislature intended to accompany the King if he should quit the Capital, the existence of the means of a civil war appeared to be very doubtful. The solution of this question would probably decide upon the measures to be adopted against Murat.

I am going into the Low Countries to take command of the army, as soon as I shall have settled here a treaty something like the Treaty of Chaumont without the subsidiary part.

Other matters here are going on but slowly, and Napoleon's expedition has not increased our facilities.

Give my best love to Priscilla, and believe me,  
Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

PARIS,

*July 29, 1815.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I received yesterday your letter of the 19th, for which I am much obliged to you.

It is not necessary that I should send you a messenger to let you know the news, as Burghersh



is here, who will write you everything. He cannot tell you, however, nor can I myself, how much interested I feel for you *in your situation*. Pray take care of yourself.

God bless you, and believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

Arthur Fane, Lady Burghersh's eldest child, was born at Florence in February, 1816, and died the following August. In October Lord and Lady Burghersh went to England for a year; the next letters allude to these events in their family life and to the Duke's interest in them.

PARIS,

February 4, 1816.

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I received your letter, and shall be most happy to be the godfather of your young gentleman. I am most anxious to hear of his being born and of your safety.

I sent you a box the other day by a messenger going to Naples, and I will not fail to send you anything else that may come to my hands for you.

Ever, my dear Priscilla,

Yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

CAMBRAY,

*October 13, 1816.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have just heard from Emily\* that you are at Paris; and I enclose a letter which has come for you, under cover to me. I hope that you and Burghersh are better. I shall be at Mont St. Martin till the end of this week—that is the 19th; and I shall then move to Cambray for a few days for the Reviews, which will be the 21st or 22nd, and then return to Mont St. Martin. It is only 6 posts about to pass this way to England, and you would probably like to see Compiègne. I hope you will call upon me therefore on your way.

Ever, my dearest Priscilla,

Yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

CAMBRAY,

*Nov. 1, 1816.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 30th, and I will go to Amiens on Wednesday to see you with great pleasure. Let me know to what inn

\* Lady FitzRoy Somerset.

you will go. I believe the best is the Hotel de France.

Ever your most affect.

W.

PARIS,

*Jany.* 13, 1817.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

Many thanks for your letter, and I hope you will repeat them frequently. Nothing can give me more satisfaction than to hear from you.

I am on proper terms with the *Staël*\*—that is, she is confoundedly afraid of me. She told a person who repeated it to me that she had done everything in her power “pour m’interesser à elle” (what does she suppose me made of?), but she found I had no “cœur pour l’amour”!!!

I have got the cloak here, but I will give you another. What colour shall it be?

Ever, dearest Priscilla,

Yours most affecty.,

W.

\* Madame de Staël with her intrigues and restless nature was disliked by the Duke. To Lady Burghersh she had, however, been a most kind friend, receiving her at Coppet and loading her with kindness and sympathy just after the death of her baby.

PARIS,

March 6, 1817.

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have many thanks to return to you for your letter of the 27th.

My eyes being like yours are excellent! I am not sorry that you stay at home and keep quiet on account of all that I hear of you, which you might as well have mentioned to me. I wish I had you here, and I could contrive somehow or other to amuse you at home.

I shall be very sorry to lose the poor Americans! \* You must for my sake protect them against their host of enemies when they will go to England.

Under *existing* circumstances what do you do about coming abroad? I think Lord W.† wrong about not bringing B.‡ into Parliament. There is no reason why a foreign minister should not be in Parliament even when absent, and it cannot be urged that it is improper he should be in Parliament and attend when he is on leave of absence in England. The inclination of the present day is to give way to this kind of absurd

\* The Misses Caton—one married the Duke of Leeds and another became later the wife of Lord Wellesley.

† Westmorland.

‡ Burghersh.

reasoning, and I am certain that our *thinskinness* (there is a new word for you) does us a great deal of harm. God bless you, my dearest Priscilla.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

PARIS,

March 30, 1817.

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 25th, giving me an account of Priscilla's sickness. I should certainly have been very uneasy if I had heard of it without receiving your letter. Give my best love to her, and tell her how anxious I am about her.

Emily has been very unwell likewise, but she is now better.

Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

The Memoir referred to in the following letter was the outcome of Lord Burghersh's *Letters from the Headquarters of the Allies in 1813-14*, referred to in the letter of Jan. 12, 1814, and was published in 1822.

MONT ST. MARTIN,  
*May 19, 1817.*

MY DEAR BURGHESHS,

I have read your Memoir with great satisfaction, and I now return it. I have marked some of the inaccuracies which I have observed in it. Others I have not marked, and there are probably some which I did not observe. These inaccuracies, those which must be found in the style of a paper written in such haste, and above all the truth which must be told of some individuals, and even armies and nations, induce me to recommend you neither to publish this Memoir yourself nor to give it to anybody who would publish it.

I am quite certain that the time has not yet come in which a real history of these transactions can be written with advantage to the publick or with satisfaction to the historian.

Give my best love to Priscilla, and believe me,  
Ever yours most affecy.,  
WELLINGTON.

CAMBRAY,  
*July 25, 1817.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your two letters, the last of which has relieved the uneasiness which the

first had occasioned.\* I had intended when I received it to write to Lord Castlereagh to let him into *the Secret*, and to urge him neither to press Burghersh's departure nor, if he should offer to go, to encourage it; but rather to discourage it both to him and to his father. I will still do so if Burghersh wishes it. You may tell him from me that I am delighted with him. Tell him also that if you were never to have a child, I should be the last man to advise him to stay, if his staying could be of the slightest injury to him. He has been abroad more than anybody; and by the time he will have been at home a year, *the reasons* for his stay a few months longer will be so *apparent* that no one will venture to say a word except in approbation of it.

You are quite right to make up your mind to return to Florence. Think so and say so, and tell Lord Westmorland so; this will in some degree satisfy him for Burghersh's not going immediately.

Ever, dearest Priscilla,

Yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Lord Burghersh's leave had expired, but owing to Lady B.'s approaching confinement the question of extending it had been raised.

CAMBRAY,

October 28, 1817.

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 17th as well as for one which I had before received from you from Brighton, which I had not answered, and I am delighted to find that your prospects are so good. I don't consider it one of the worst symptoms that your mind is made up to return to Florence. You must keep up your spirits and I don't doubt that you will succeed on *this* as well as *many* future occasions.

I go to England to see Lord Rivers' place\* on Saturday or Sunday, and shall be sorry not to meet you, but you are better where you are.†

Remember me kindly to Lord Westmorland and Burghersh.

Mama‡ was at Paris when I was there the other day, in very good health. She talks of returning to England in the middle of November, and will call upon me on her road.

God bless you.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Strathfieldsaye.

† At Apethorpe.

‡ Mrs. Wellesley Pole.



CAMBRAY,

Nov. 18, 1817.

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 12th, and I regret exceedingly that I could not go to see you at Apethorpe, but I was a good deal pressed for time while I was in England, and in fact I slept only one night in London.

I was a little apprehensive of the effect the account of Princess Charlotte's misfortune might have upon you, and I am happy to find that you bore it well. I think it probable that she would have behaved well; and her death is one of the most serious misfortunes the country has ever met with. Pray let me hear how you go on.

Mrs. Pole is better, though far from well. I heard from her last night and this day from Lord FitzRoy.\*

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

CAMBRAY,

Dec. 12, 1817.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

Many thanks for your letter of the 28th, and I am delighted to find that you are going on well.

\* Somerset.

I hope you will yet take a leaf out of Emily's book, who, I hear, proposes to have her fourth next May, that is in a little more than three years.

I don't like what Burghersh has done, or rather has been obliged to do. There never was a man who had so fair a claim to a little indulgence, and that is the principle on which I advised him to stay in England. It would appear, however, that he did not deserve the indulgence if he is made to pay for it.

God bless you. Let me hear from you as soon as the great event occurs, and believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

PARIS,

*Feb.* 15, 1818.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 10th, and I beg you will tell Madame de Lieven\* that I am very sorry that it is quite impossible for me to interfere with the French Govt. on any subject

\* Princess Lieven, wife of the Russian Ambassador in London from 1812 to 1834; a very well-known figure in the political world of that time. The Duke seems to have distrusted her always.

whatever. I daresay she will not believe me, but I have never applied for anybody yet.

I am sorry to hear that you have not been quite well, but I hope we shall get you quite well here. Mama appears to me to be very well and in very good spirits, and so is Emily; and for once in her married life she is not in the way!!!

Don't make yourself uneasy about Naples; depend upon it you will go there.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

The next letter is from the Marquis Wellesley, the Duke's eldest brother, who at this time was very much of a recluse. He wrote beautifully expressed letters, full of kind sentiments to his relations, but rarely put himself out for any one. In his latter years he kept aloof from them all, so that the Duke's estrangement from him was certainly *not*, as has been implied, altogether the Duke's fault.

*Letter from Lord Wellesley to Lady Burghersh.*

RICHMOND,

*Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1818.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

Your very interesting and affecting letter produced mixed emotions of pleasure and pain

in my mind such as I have seldom experienced. It is a great satisfaction to perceive that you remember me with so much tenderness and affection, and it is with heartfelt grief that I read the relation of your sufferings and afflictions. You possess, however, a source of consolation in every sorrow—an honest and affectionate heart. This great advantage was always your principal recommendation to my affection and esteem, and I am sincerely gratified in finding that you retain it. Be assured that I take the most warm interest in all that regards you, and although my retired habits and your health have prevented our meeting for some time past, my regard for you is undiminished, and I trust you will always consider me as one of your most attached friends.

Pray remember me kindly to Lord Burghersh; I hope he knows how sincerely I esteem him. I am at present affected by a cold which renders me unable to go to London, and in such weather it would be unreasonable to expect you to call here.

I shall probably trouble you with a letter for your dear mother,\* from whom I received a very

\* Mrs. Pole, in Paris.

kind letter respecting the horrid attempt on Arthur's life.\*

Believe me, ever dearest Priscilla,

Yours most affectionately,

WELLESLEY.

PARIS,

*Feb.* 25, 1818.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 19th, and I am happy to find that you are well and are to set out on the 27th. Your room will be ready for you. You will not mind its having been occupied for some days by Lord Kinnaird.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

\* On Feb. 10, 1818, a shot was fired into the Duke's carriage by one Cantillon as he was entering his hotel in Paris after dining with Sir Charles Stewart. The existence of a plot in which notable persons were implicated was thus brought to light, and Lord Kinnaird by his indiscreet behaviour fell under suspicion of complicity. In order to protect him the Duke took him into his own house, and the allusion in the following letter is thus explained (see Suppt. Disp. xii.).

CAMBRAY,

*July 18, 1818.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 24th June, and I am happy to find from it that you arrived at your station\* in good health, and from other quarters that you are settled at Florence to your satisfaction.

I am very much obliged to you for thinking of me for the columns. If they are cheap I should be glad to have them, and shall be obliged to you if you will have the purchase made, and arrange the getting them from Rome and sending them to England, &c., &c. Burghersh may draw upon me payable at Coutts' for the price; but don't buy them unless they are remarkably cheap.

Ever my dearest Priscilla,

Yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*Jan'y. 7, 1819.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

The enclosed letter has been sent to me by a person about whom I know nothing, but who

\* Florence.

concluded that I of course franked letters to all parts of Europe. It contains a bank note of twenty pounds, for which I have told him in reply to his letter that neither you nor I would be responsible, but that I would send his letter to you. I beg you will enquire first at (Florence?) and then have enquiry made at Rome for the lady to whom the letter is addressed, and send it to her. If she cannot be found send it back to the writer.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

Lord B. did as the Duke desired, and the note was safely delivered.

*Note by Lord Burghersh on letter of which only -  
a fragment remains.*

The Duke states that under the instructions he has received from Mr. Canning he cannot send for him to employ him *officially* at the Congress of Verona (he was then Minister at Florence), yet he invites him and Lady Burghersh to come and live with him, which they did, and remained with him till he went to Milan, whither Lord B. accompanied him, but Lady B. returned to her children at Florence.

Fragment of letter from—

VERONA,

Oct. 20, 1822.

*(To Lord Burghersh at Florence.)*

. . . desired me to say that she will have the greatest satisfaction in seeing you both. Lord FitzRoy will write you word respecting a lodging he can get for you, and you can live with me, go to the opera, see the Sovereigns, &c., &c., and go away to Milan when I go. I hope to be able to go by the 30th. Give my best love to Priscilla and tell her that I don't write to her as this contains all that I have to say.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



## CHAPTER II.

### POLITICAL LIFE.

1826—1831.

DURING the greater part of the years included in this chapter Lord Burghersh remained in Florence. In 1829 Lord Aberdeen offered to send him on a mission to Spain, but, as will be seen in the correspondence, he declined it on the advice of the Duke. The following year he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Naples, but this appointment was also cancelled.

In 1826 Lady Burghersh had a serious illness while at home in England. She was the Duke's guest at the time, and his solicitude on her behalf is evident from the letters which he wrote to Lord Burghersh.

LONDON,

*May 1, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I write you one line to offer you a lodging, &c., in my house when you will return to town. I can lodge the whole family\* with great convenience. In fact they will have the whole story

\* Four little children.

to themselves, excepting a room for Alava,\* and it will be no inconvenience to me.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

Lord Burghersh had to leave for his post at Florence before Lady Burghersh, who was at Apsley House, was well enough to move.

LONDON,

*June 24, 1826.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I write you one line to tell you that Priscilla continues in much the same state. She was up for two or three hours yesterday, and at night complained of pain in her side. Sir Henry Halford, however, continues to think well of her. She certainly has no fever and, Sir Henry thinks, not much inflammation.

There is nothing new here.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

\* General Alava, an old friend of the Duke's, who often stayed with him. He was a Spaniard, and had served under him in the Peninsula.

LONDON,

*June 27, 1826.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I write you one line to tell you that Priscilla is to have leeches applied again to-night, and to have a blister afterwards. Sir Henry Halford, however, still talks with confidence of her recovery. There is more of irritation than of fever about her, and I confess I think her improving.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*July 7, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I am delighted to find that you are going on so well; but I hope you will not make the exertion of moving downstairs till you will be quite able to bear it.

I am very sorry that Burghersh has stayed at Paris. He may rely upon it that a report is made regularly of his movements.

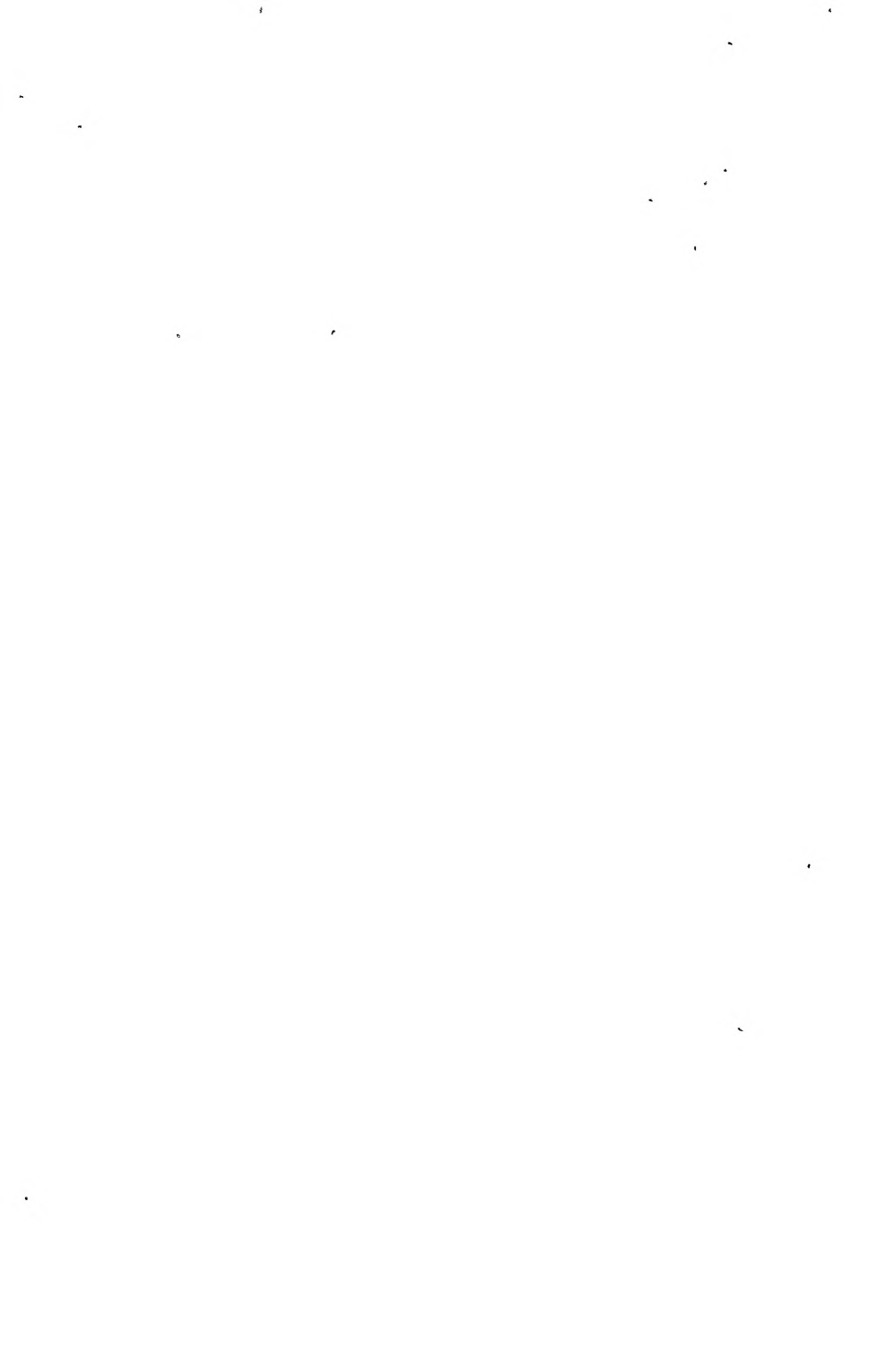
Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



*J. Westlund*

*J. Westlund*



STRATHFIELD SAYE,

*July 12, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I write you one line in answer to your letter respecting Caroline.\* I know that Lord Liverpool entertains particular objections to the grant of a pension to a young lady to enable her to marry; and I should have great objections to press upon him in favour of a relation of my own; more particularly considering that her mother, grandmother, and her father-in-law† are all provided for by the publick.

The only instance that I am aware of a departure by Lord Liverpool from this rule, not to give a young lady a pension to enable her to marry, is that of Lady Georgiana de Ros, which, however, can scarcely be called a departure, as in fact she had the pension before she married, and it was continued to her notwithstanding her marriage. If Caroline really likes this marriage she ought to make it and live upon her income whatever it may be. They talk of her having only £500 per annum. As if hundreds did not marry having less than that income.

\* Probably Caroline FitzRoy, his sister's daughter.

† Step-father, Mr. Culling Smith.

As for getting him on in his profession, I will certainly do for him what I can when it may be in my power. But I don't want to encourage a marriage by holding out.\*

When Lady Burghersh was convalescent she went by water to Margate.

MARGATE,

*Sunday, July 23.*

MY DEAREST DUKE,

We got here safely a little after nine but as it was low water we could not get up to the Pier but were obliged to have a Boat. They managed moving me very well and carried me out of the Ship upon the Sofa to the House. I am a little tired but upon the whole have borne it a great deal better than I expected. I was not sick nor was Emily, and we found the Vessel very comfortable. I hope you will find me much stronger when you come to see us. I look forward with the greatest delight to the idea of seeing you again, and I never can sufficiently express to you how much I feel all your kindness and affection to me.

Believe me ever dearest Duke,

Your most affecte.

P. A. BURGHERSH.

\* End missing.

LONDON,

*July 24, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I was delighted to learn your safe arrival at Margate. It began to blow and rain here about nine on Saturday night, and I imagined that you must have experienced great difficulty in landing, and must have suffered from cold and wet.

Sir Henry Halford came here this morning, and I showed him your letter, and he was much pleased to find you were so well. With best love to Emily, believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*July 25, 1826.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

Priscilla was well enough to set out from hence for Margate on Saturday last. She walked with my assistance to the carriage and I put her on board the Steamboat at Deptford without any difficulty. I enclose her account of herself upon her arrival at Margate. I shall be very much



obliged to you if you will send me, as soon as possible, the Bust of Lord Londonderry.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*August 4, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter, and I am sorry that you are unwell. It is probably owing to the heat of the weather, or to the state of the cooking utensils in your lodging, or to the water. However, as long as your indisposition is not the old one it does not much signify. I will go to the Admiralty and apply for the steam vessel to take you from Margate to Boulogne, and I will let you know by this post, if not, by to-morrow, if I should succeed.

I hope, however, that you will not be in too great a hurry to go.

I propose to go to see you in a few days. I don't fix my time, as I understand that I am to go again to the Lodge for the King's birthday.

God bless you.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*August 6, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I am about to leave town, and write you a line to be sent to you to-morrow. Lord FitzRoy will have written you last night that I could not get for you the same vessel which conveyed you to Margate ; but the Admiralty have consented to your having the use of another steam vessel, which is used for the purpose of towing, and therefore the accommodation is not quite so good as in that vessel of which you had the use before. Lord FitzRoy is, however, to go to Deptford to see her to-morrow, and if the accommodation should not be sufficient you are to have the use of the Admiralty yacht, a sailing vessel in which the accommodation is excellent, and the above-mentioned steam vessel to tow her, so that your passage is secured to Boulogne or Dieppe as you may think best. I now entreat you not to fix too early a day for your departure, as you cannot detain the vessels at Margate. You must go when they will arrive there. I have now named the 18th. But have said it is possible a later day may be fixed. You had better fix a day on which it will be certain that you can go. Recollect that

you was a week too soon the last voyage, and that in this voyage, particularly if you determine to go to Dieppe, you may have some sea. Write to me and direct here. I am going only to Stratfieldsaye, and I will go to you as soon as I shall know whether I am to be summoned to the Lodge on the King's birthday, which I understood from the lady that she intended.

God bless you. Remember me most kindly to Emily, and believe me,

Yours most affecy.,  
W.

As soon as the moment of your departure is fixed write to Burghersh to start from Florence to meet you on the same day that you will quit Margate.

LONDON,  
*August 19, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your note of yesterday; and without seeing Croker\* I may venture to assure you that you will have it in your power to take the steam boat whether to *Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe*, or *Rouen*, as you please. All that is

\* Secretary to Admiralty.

necessary is that you should go on the day that you fix for your departure. I propose to go to Margate on Wednesday to see you, and I beg you to order a room for me at Howe's Hotel.

I am going this day to see Lady Shelley at Maresfield, and will go along the Coast to you.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

Captain Hill will go with you.

In September Lady Burghess was able to rejoin her husband and return to Florence. The following letter shows the Duke's constant solicitude for her health and welfare.

LONDON,

*October 10, 1826.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I write you one line to tell you how happy I am to learn that you are quite well and have made your journey so prosperously. I hope that you will continue well during the Winter.

I have ordered a Bottle to be got to be filled with the Acid which I will send you by Humboldt's first Messenger and if you will let me know when you will begin upon this Bottle I will then send you another and then keep you

constantly supplied. Don't leave it off, even if you should not find it succeed in keeping you free from cold altogether at first. You may rely upon it it will at last.

God bless you.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

Nov. 19, 1826.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your Note from Parma and I am delighted to find that you continue so well, and that you attribute your continued freedom from Cold to the use of the Acid. I sent to Paris a large Bottle for you the other day to be taken charge of there by Mr. St. John who was going on to Florence. Let me know when you will commence the use of your last Magazine and I will take care to supply you with another in good time. Even if you should find that it fails in preserving you from Cold entirely, do not discontinue it. On the contrary use it more frequently and stronger while under the influence of the Cold than you do generally; and when

the Cold is removed resume the use of it in the ordinary strength. I don't use it so strong in Summer as I do in Winter. You will find that if it does not preserve you from Colds altogether the attacks will be much less frequent and milder. I desired Lebzeltern\* to recommend the use of the Acid to the Emperor of Austria. I don't know whether he did so. I am certain that he would derive benefit from it.

Pray remember me most kindly to Burghersh, and tell him that Lord Londonderry's bust has been received, and that I am much obliged to him for all the trouble he has taken about it. It is excellent. I have paid for it.

God bless you, dearest Priscilla.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Early in 1828 the Duke became Prime Minister on the resignation of Lord Goderich, but in the autumn, owing to a difference of opinion on an election question, Mr. Huskisson left the Cabinet, followed by Lord Palmerston, Lord Dudley, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Grant. The following letter refers to the consequent reconstruction of the Cabinet.

\* Austrian minister.

The Duke all through his life showed not only regard but deference to Lord Westmorland in remembrance of his kindness to him in the early days in Ireland. He used to talk of him as "my old master" up to the last. Lord Westmorland died in 1841 at the age of 83. In his old age he was very eccentric.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Sept. 29, 1828.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I ought to have written to you long ago, but you will guess that I have plenty to do; and indeed I have more to do at this moment than I can manage.

It was a terrible disappointment to Lord Westmorland and annoyance to me that I could not bring him into the Cabinet. But it was impossible. I am afraid he still looks to it with anxiety, and I very much fear that I shall not be able to do it. But I never despair of anything. I have not answered Burghersh's Letter; but I have spoken about him to both the Secretaries of State; and I will not forget his wishes. My opinion is and always has been that till there is an opportunity of putting Burghersh in one of the Highest or in one of the most important situations in the Line it

would be best for him not to move him. We must consider a little likewise the question of climate for you and the children.

I hope that you and they are quite well. Lord and Lady Maryborough\* are gone to Brussels. They are quite well; and I think him more Happy and contented than he was when you was here.

I imagine that you will have Douro and Charles with you at Florence very soon. Make them learn Italian well.

We are going on prosperously.

I have got the better of some terrible difficulties, and I have others very great before me. But I work hard and don't despair of getting the better of them all. I am most anxious to keep the World at Peace; and God send that I may succeed.

God bless you, dearest Priscilla.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Lay me at the feet of Her Imperial Majesty† when you will see her.

\* Wellesley Pole was created Lord Maryborough in 1821.

† Marie Louise, Duchess of Parma, widow of Napoleon. The Duke had known her at Vienna and Verona, and Lady Burghersh was a great friend of hers.



LONDON,

Nov. 28, 1828.

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your Letters. The last which I received was of the 7th.

I write to Douro to beg him not to hurry himself.

He will be brought into Parliament in February. But I don't think it necessary that he should be in England at any particular time. He may come at his Leisure.

I am very sorry indeed to hear of the illness of General Neipperg.\* I hope he will recover however. He would be a terrible loss to his friends, to the Empress Marie Louisa, and to the Publick in general.

I am delighted to find that you are so well.

God bless you. Remember me most kindly to Burghersh, and believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

In 1829 Lord Aberdeen offered the Mission of Spain to Lord Burghersh, but stated that the

\* The Empress Marie Louise's morganatic husband.

Duke of Wellington did not think it would suit him. Lord Burghersh, who had served with the army in Spain and was well acquainted with the leading persons there, accepted it, but under the condition that the Duke of Wellington approved of that decision. In this letter the Duke gives his reasons for persisting in declining it.

LONDON,

*May 7, 1829.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I have received your letter of the 20th April, and Lord Aberdeen has communicated to me that which you had written to him. I have declined to accept for you the mission to Spain.

I had the offer made to you because I was sensible that long ago you ought to have been promoted; and that you felt that you had not been treated with justice, much less with kindness. I was anxious to see justice done to you; and that you should be satisfied that you was not neglected.

However, I must say that I never thought the mission to Spain was that one which suited you.

Under existing circumstances we have not much intercourse with Spain; indeed, none of importance. This mission does not lead to more than that which you hold at present. For these

reasons it is not desirable to you. But for other reasons it is desirable that you should not go there. The climate of Madrid, although in such a latitude, is too harsh for Priscilla and your children.

It is not a bad climate, but it is variable. At times very hot, suddenly very cold; and I don't think that it would suit her or your children. I have thought it best therefore to decline for you to accept the situation; and, between ourselves, I have been the more particularly induced to do so, because I think I see an early prospect of making another arrangement for you. The principle of our R. C. arrangement has been to leave the Church of England, and everything regarding the communication with Rome, exactly where it was. Of course, therefore, this arrangement affords no opening.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

No direct diplomatic relations were ever maintained officially with the Pope, but one of the secretaries nominally attached to the Legation at Florence lived in Rome, and necessary communications were carried on unofficially through the British Minister at Florence.

SUDBOURNE,

*October 19, 1829.*

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

You are aware of the relation in which we stand towards the Roman Catholics in Ireland. The old laws in respect to communication with Rome are strictly in force. But there is no doubt that the peace and welfare of Ireland depend in a great degree upon the selection of the men appointed to fill the places in the episcopal mission to that country. We cannot officially admit the existence of the interference of the Pope, we cannot at all acknowledge it; but we are anxious that it should be exercised in such a manner as will promote the peace and harmony of the country.

The gentleman is dead who filled the office of Bishop in the Diocese of Waterford. His name was Kelly. He had been Coadjutor of Baltimore in the United States. The person who is recommended by the Priests in that part of Ireland for the office is a Mr. Foran, respecting whom the intelligence which I have received does not lead me to believe that his appointment to the dignity in question would be beneficial to the peace of the country.

The person who has been suggested to me is

Bishop Weld, Coadjutor of Canada. This gentleman, who is connected with some of the best families in this country, would be of great service in Ireland. I shall be very much obliged to you if you will lose no time in exerting all your private influence at Rome to have this appointment made.

The R. C. of this Empire have now all that they can require from H.M. in the way of political privilege.

There remains no concession to be made excepting of our religion, our properties, and our lives; and I should think that the authorities at Rome will see that the interests of religion coincide with the political interests of the State in rendering it desirable that gentlemen selected for the performance of episcopal duties of a spiritual nature in Ireland should be well disposed towards the State, and such as the Govt. can approve of.

Pray lose no time about this affair, and manage it with discretion.

Believe me,

Ever yours most sincerely and affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

Bishop Weld is now, I understand, on his way to Rome.

LONDON,

Nov. 18, 1829.

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I have received your letter of the 1st Nov. I am delighted to hear of Priscilla's new talent.\* I received from Rome by courier the letters of which you sent me the copies, and was obliged to pay *eighty* pounds for the same! Sir H. Dalrymple sent the courier by desire of Mr. Horton, who availed himself of the good opportunity to send the papers to the *Times* newspaper, and they will be published to-morrow!

*Vive la liberté!*

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

I saw your father lately quite well.

LONDON,

Jan. 19, 1830.

MY DEAR BURGHERSH,

I have this day received your letter of the 5th inst. enclosing one from Cardinal Albani, to which I do not think it necessary to request that any answer should be given. I earnestly recommend to you to be very cautious in all your

\* She had taken up painting.

communications with the Papal Government, and to confine them to matters of private civility.

It would be very desirable, however, to know what is the mode of appointing what is called a Bishop in Ireland, if that information can be obtained without a breach of law.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

I am very happy that Priscilla is so well. She will have been much shocked by the death of Sir Thomas Lawrence.

WALMER CASTLE,

*May 26, 1831.*

MY DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter, and I am happy to have so good an account of Burghersh.\* Keep politics from him if you can, as long as you can.

They are in a sad state.

The King has fixed the 28th May for the Celebration of His own Birthday; and it is impossible that the Pitt Club can permanently retain that day for their Anniversary if they mean to be the Tory Party Club.

\* He had had a severe illness.

I could not, at all events, attend on the 28th. I have not been anywhere since the Duchess' death,\* excepting by mistake† at Lady Jersey's at dinner on Monday last, and I must go to Court before I go anywhere else in publick, considering how civil the King and all the Royal Family were to me. I also know that Peel will not come to town to attend the Club on the 28th.

Under these circumstances I wrote to recommend to the Club to postpone their meeting this year from the 28th May to the 25th June. But they declined. They now abuse me because I don't attend and because they will not have a full meeting. This is the usual course, I am told "Head us, we will do what you choose." But in truth nobody does anything but what he likes, excepting myself. We are all commanders, and there are no troops. Nobody obeys or ever listens to advice but myself. Then I am abused because things do not go right.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectly.,

W.

\* The Duchess died in March ; the Duke had very strict ideas about mourning.

† Believing it not to be a party.



## CHAPTER III.

### THE REFORM GOVERNMENT.

1832—1840.

LORD BURGHersh's appointment to Naples was cancelled on the accession to power of the Reform Government, and from 1831 to 1841 he remained in England without official employment. The consequent loss of income just at the time when the expenses of a large young family were increasing, obliged him to practise an economy for which his own and his wife's previous life had not prepared them, but the inconvenience of this necessity was immensely lightened by the Duke's constant kindness. Every summer Lady Burghersh and her children spent several months at Walmer, and every possible occasion for giving pleasure or advantages to them was seized by the Duke. Lady Burghersh's only complaint was that the Duke spoiled the children so outrageously.

The letters will show the great confidence he reposed in her in political affairs, and when in 1837 she was plunged into deep grief by the loss of a daughter, his letters increased in frequency with the obvious intention of distracting her mind from its overpowering sorrow.

LONDON,

Jan. 28, 1832.

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I will call upon you as soon as I shall be allowed to pay a visit.\* Hitherto I have rode out and walked out; and been to the H. of Lords, which is as warm as my own room. I am afraid of getting into a cold room.

Arbuthnot took my pamphlet upon D'Este's case and never sent it back. I'll write for it.

Send for an excellent one,† by Sir J. Walsh, which is just come out.

I think that Burghersh will be in town in a few days after Monday.

But I imagine that the Court will not be dissolved till the king will approve of the sentence on Capt. Warrington.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

Captain Warrington, mentioned at the close of the letter, commanded a troop of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, and was tried by Court Martial for supine-

\* He had been ill.

† This probably refers to a pamphlet by Sir John Benn Walsh (who in 1868 was raised to the Peerage as Baron Ormathwaite) on *The Present Balance of Parties in the State*.

ness in dealing with the rioters at Bristol. He was sentenced to be cashiered, but was allowed by the King to retire from the service by selling his troop.

WALMER CASTLE,

*August 22, 1834.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I arrived here last night and have just seen your boys, all of them remarkably well.

George is taller than I am, and nearly as tall as his father. The others looking quite rosy and stout. I never saw children so much improved in appearance as they have been by their residence here.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Aug. 29, 1834.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Your boys are quite well. I gave Ernest his letter. I am going away to-morrow for about a week, but it will not be at all inconvenient to me that they should stay till the 6th. In the following week of September I am likely to have here a good number of people, and I should find it difficult to lodge and accommodate so many

heads, notwithstanding that this house stretches very handsomely at times.

I conclude that their return on that day will not be inconvenient to you, and it will accommodate me perfectly.

I cannot express to you how well they behave; I never hear them or of them, and never see them unless I look for them. They appear to be very much amused, very happy, and in high health.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Count Pozzo di Borgo, who is often referred to in this correspondence, was a Corsican by birth, and took service with Russia, of which country he was the ambassador in Paris, and afterwards in London. He had been an intimate friend of Lord and Lady Burghersh since his first visit to England in 1812.

In the *Portfolio*, a periodical devoted to diplomatic subjects, there appeared, in 1836, a series of private despatches which had passed between the Russian Government and its agents. The originals had fallen into the hands of the Insurgents in the Polish Insurrection, and had been brought to England by Prince Adam Czartoryski. The *Portfolio* was edited by David Urquhart, who had been secretary to the British Embassy at Constantinople, and it

was supposed that Palmerston was secretly a party to the publication of these papers.

BURGHLEY,

*Jan. 10, 1835.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your report of Pozzo's account of his conversation with Lord Holland.

You will see that I have guessed right in respect to the publisher of the Portfolio. I think that the Russian ministers will yet regret their conduct to me, and their alliance with the Whigs while I was in office.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

LONDON,

*July 18, 1835.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very sorry to hear that you are so unwell, I will call upon you this afternoon.

I write to Mrs. Norman\* to say that you cannot go before Tuesday, and that she shall hear from me on that day.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

\* Housekeeper at Walmer.

WALMER CASTLE, .

October 9, 1835.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was very sorry to learn the disaster which had befallen your best *bonnet box*.\* I am afraid that you will never hear of it again.

Congratulate Louisa† from me upon the safety of her *best bonnet*. Lady Maryborough continues to go on well. I will let you know how she is when I shall close this note before dinner.

I am afraid that I shall be under the necessity of moving, and of being in town on Monday.

I have been at Lord Maryborough's. She was better. Indeed, so well that Lincoln‡ having seen her last night, and being under the necessity of going to town this morning, went away without seeing her. She was asleep when he went, and he would not allow that she should be disturbed.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Lady Burghersh's box had been cut off the carriage by thieves while posting to London after dark on Shooter's Hill.

† Lady Burghersh's daughter, then aged 13.

‡ The family Doctor. Lady Maryborough had been ill at Dover, where she was then staying.

S.S.,\*

*October 17, 1835.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very happy at receiving such good accounts of Lady Maryborough, particularly of her being able to sit up. I shall be released here on Thursday, and shall return to London on that day or Friday.

I propose to return immediately to Walmer Castle.

I conclude that my servants, &c., will be able to get back about the beginning of the week.

You talked of returning, and I shall be very happy to see you.

I enclose a note for Pozzo, to tell him that I am likely to be at Walmer Castle till the middle of November, and that I shall be very happy to see him.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

*October 18, 1835.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

As you will have seen from my letter of yesterday, I fully expected that you would go to

\* Strathfieldsaye.

Walmer Castle when I should go there after the conclusion of this expedition, and I concluded that Burghersh would join you there, and had settled for your accommodation accordingly.

The whole world, however, choose to visit me, and at Walmer Castle, and as the accommodation in the house is not infinite, I must manage it.

I enclose a note for Mrs. Norman, directing her to receive you and take care of you, and to lodge you in Mr. Pitt's room where George was. I recommend to you not to go down till I shall.

But of course you will do what suits you best.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

People are so anxious to go to Walmer Castle that I shall scarcely have time to send back my servants before they will arrive.

The Duke's opinions on Reform are well known. The following letter states some of his misgivings and forebodings.

LONDON,

Nov. 17, 1835.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The difference between me and others is that I see the mischief and danger, but contend against



both in order to diminish their extent, alleviate their weight, and if possible prevent their evil consequences. Others don't, or pretend they don't, or will not see the danger. They cry out for shame to despair; but I say contend against the mischief in order to diminish it. Don't deceive yourself about its true extent.

There is one thing of which I am quite certain, and that is that we shall not find a remedy for the mischief done, and the danger, till all mankind will be convinced of its existence.

I cannot therefore think it wise to conceal my real opinions, when I think it proper to give any at all.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

There was a great deal of excitement at that time in the diplomatic world over a speech delivered by the Emperor Nicholas at Warsaw on October 22, 1835, in which he had spoken violently of the Polish revolutionary movement, and a controversy arose between the Russian and French Cabinets owing to remarks in the French Press about it. The Duke's reference to it was probably inspired by his dread of a similar incident with England.

The Princess Victoria had had a rather serious illness that autumn; the only illness almost she

ever had, but it gave rise at that time to apprehensions about her health.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Nov. 24, 1835.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was very sorry not to see you while I was in London. The truth is that when my time is taken up by entertaining people there comes such an accumulation of letters to be answered and matters to be attended to, that I am obliged to devote a day or two to do what is necessary.

I saw Lady Maryborough on the day that I left town. I thought that she looked remarkably well; and that she was in very good spirits.

She must keep herself very warm during the winter and spring.

I think the Emperor's speech a very foolish proceeding.

We have nothing to say to it, and our newspapers have no right to observe upon it.

I regret it principally on account of the impression which it has made on the mind of the D. of Cumberland. He admires it mightily; and would willingly imitate it if he should have the opportunity.

I cannot but consider that among other evils

with which this devoted country is threatened is that of the loss of the Princess Victoria. We shall witness a scene here in that case, which I fear will afford ample opportunities for pranks of this description.

I must sign the polling paper of the Union Pension fund. The paper which you enclose will not answer.

I am not aware that I have promised my votes; and if I have not you shall have them; and I will send in the polling paper signed if you send me the name of your candidate.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

APETHORPE,

*Dec. 31, 1835.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received only this day your letter of the 29th. I have not mentioned to anybody that I had heard from you about the Dispatch in the Portfolio. I saw it in the newspapers, and talked about it here; but never mentioned you to anybody.

I could write a volume upon Lieven's Dispatch.

It is very clear that the quarrel with us was that we did not express to the British publick our satisfaction with the good faith, the moderation, the candour, the honesty, and honour of the Emperor Nicholas.

Had we reason to feel satisfaction? Had we no reason to be dissatisfied? Had I in particular had no negociations with the Emperor Nicholas in which to say the least of him H.I.M. broke his word?

But after all it appears that our object was to prevail upon the Emperor to be lenient towards the Turk. If I threatened I acted in direct inconsistency with my principle, my professions, and my practice upon every occasion, and it must have fallen from me in the heat of argument; and it is probable that I apologised.

But look at the result.

Were we right or wrong in not trusting implicitly to the assurances, the professions, the verbal promises of the Emperor and his ministers?

Look at the terms of the Treaty of Adrianople!!

Compare it with everything effected by force and fraud by Bonaparte or any other conqueror, and see whether those British ministers who did not quite trust to the promises and professions of

the good faith, the moderation, and the wish for peace of the Emperor Nicholas were right or wrong?

I could say a great deal upon this subject, which would be very curious and would occasion some regret to the Emperor's ministers that they had ever attacked me.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

*Lady Burghersh to Lord Burghersh.*

*Monday, Jan. 20, 1836.*

I found the Duke on Saturday evening and stayed an hour and a half with him. He was particularly amiable and cordial to me. He told me he was not sure if he should be able to leave town yesterday or not, so I called again yesterday, and he said he was delighted to see me, and when I got up to go he proposed to walk through the Park with me, which he did, and then came home with me, so I have had a deal of conversation with him, all which I thought very satisfactory. His *tone* is very different to what it was at Walmer, both as to Peel and as to his general impressions about the state of things which are

certainly *now* not *desponding*. He told me of his interviews with Peel at Bretby, and said he found him *very cordial*—very anxious to pull well with him, and that he really believed their opinions now completely agreed in every particular. I think *his* reasons against having an amendment in the Lords are quite unanswerable. Whether the House of Commons will move one will depend on what Peel hears when he comes to town. The upshot of all the D. said is that he feels confident the game is in our hands, and that all he wishes is to keep people *patient* and not spoil things by being in a hurry. Indeed, his very words were, "We only want time and then we shall do very well. We are *in* a revolution, but I now see the end of it. Perhaps we may have a little difficulty with our own people—but I don't think we shall. I am sure *I* can command the House of Lords," &c., &c. From all he said I infer he thinks it would be *wiser* to wait to attack the Government upon some legislative measure, but that he would not be averse to a *coup de main* if circumstances should show such a thing to be practicable. He showed me his answer to Matuscewitz, and I could not help telling him that when FitzRoy showed me Matuscewitz's letter I said to him, that,

though a very well written letter, it gave me but a bad opinion of his (M's) judgment, for that instead of denying the despatch he ought to have hung his justification on the *date* and the impossibility of his then forming any opinion of the D. except from what was told him by the L.'s.\* FitzRoy was also struck at my opinion and the Duke's so exactly coinciding. The D.'s letter altogether is admirable I think. He told me to tell Pozzo of it. We talked a great deal about all the Russian business.

There are many things I can't write, but that will amuse you to hear when we meet—both of what passed with the D. and me and also with *Hardinge*, who talks to me *very confidentially*, and who consulted me beforehand as to Peel asking the Duke. But this of course is not to be breathed to a soul—least of all to the Duke—as all the grace of the thing would be lost if not supposed to be *spontaneous*. But it is curious how I, living so retired a life in my chimney corner, should somehow get mixed up with many important *secrets*. I suppose because, thank God! I keep out of *tracasseries*.

\* Prince Lieven was Russian Ambassador in London, and his wife was a noted political *intrigante*.

BELVOIR CASTLE,

*Jan. 5, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The reason for which I think that Mr. Urquhart published this Dispatch is that I know he is the patron of an Insurrection of Circassians. He alone could publish the other paper which is in the portfolio.

I intend to get the whole work, being convinced that I shall be able to prove it to be his. He and Lord Ponsonby and, I believe, the Govt. are about the most abominable plan that ever entered the minds of publick men; that is to excite a rebellion of the Circassians, before they can assist them.

Secondly, to create a species of excitement in England first against the Russians, and then in favour of the Circassians or any who will raise the standard against that Govt. The last scheme will certainly fail. The Circassians will be exterminated if they should move.

I shall meet Burghersh to-morrow at Belton.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



S.S.,

Jan. 26, 1836.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your note.

I returned here on Saturday evening and have since read part of the Portfolio.

I entertain no doubt whatever who is the efficient editor of the work. The object is to write up a feeling in this country against the Emperor of Russia, to produce a Russian war, and the Dispatches which are published are inserted solely to excite curiosity and interest, and to procure readers of the other trash with which they are mingled.

The Circassian Manifesto as it is called is the greatest *Humbug* that ever was penned. There are other papers which must have been written by Lord P. or some housemaid!

I am very happy to learn that Burghersh has been delivered of his bone!\*

Lord Westmorland is coming up for the meeting of Parliament: I conclude that Burghersh will do the same.

The report of the proposition having been made

\* An operation on an injury to the knee.

to dissolve the Parlt. comes from Brighton. But I daresay that your report is correct.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

*Feb. 7, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I came down here on Friday after the Chapter of the Garter.

Will you and Burghersh come here on any day you please. Bring George with you. You might ask Pozzo di Borgo whether it would do him any good to come down to the country and a warm house. I'll ask his nephew and niece if he likes.

Lord Melbourne is right. He made a great mistake in [not] agreeing to my amendment.\* It prevents mischievous results! I was always apprehensive of that which has happened, viz., that we should carry an amendment which could not be carried in the Commons. The Lords of the Administration and the Court having voted for

\* An amendment to the King's Speech, not pledging the House to adopt the principle of the English Corporation Act in the Irish Bill.

our amendment we are fully justified in having proposed it, and are harmless.

But this transaction proves to me clearly not only that Lord Melbourne does not understand his business but that there is nobody in the Cabinet who does!

The King is a wise man. I thought that there was something strange in the way in which Lord Melbourne seized hold of, and repeated what I had said respecting the necessity of peace.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

*February 13, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very sorry that you are not able to come this day. I don't mean to go to town for Monday unless forced to do so. In which case I will return either Monday night or Tuesday morning.

Indeed, I intend to keep my establishments here till Easter, so that you stay here as long as you please.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

The first part of the following letter refers to the appointment of Dr. Hampden to the Regius Professorship of Divinity at Oxford. Melbourne had requested the Archbishop to send him a list of the names of six eligible men, and then chose none of them.

S.S.,

*Feb. 27, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your most interesting letter.

I pity the poor King! I have seen all the correspondence. I know all that passed between the King and the Archbishop, and me and everybody. The King knew everything at the moment that Lord Melbourne prevailed upon him to make the appointment in the four hours' conference excepting the details of the conversation between the Archbishop and Lord Melbourne of the preceding day. The poor man! is obliged to find excuses for his unpardonable weakness! What can be done for him? Lord Lyndhurst is a very clever man; but he does not understand my position so well as I do myself. I have made a move to stop Lord Londonderry if possible. But I don't think that I shall succeed.

If there is to be a discussion, it is best that I should not be present, although I have threatened to go there. The Duke of C., Lord Wynford, and Lord Londonderry will lye, and get out of their difficulty. If they do so it is so much the better. If I should be present I must speak. I have been very ill-used by Orangeism, and I must express myself with ridicule of their folly at least, if not with feelings of indignation.

Either would leave wounds not easily healed, would create divisions among the Party; and it is best for the publick interests that I should not be there.

I am convinced likewise that in general it is best that I should be absent as long as there is really nothing to do in the Lords. Others are bored with their inaction; and they attribute their *malaise* to my absence. But if they like to come down here they may; and even bring with them their *Psyches*.

In respect to Pozzo you may assure him that I read his Dispatch as I did everything else of his in admiration of his ability.

If he supposed that I ever thought of making Polignac minister he was very much mistaken.

I always disapproved of the Tripartite Treaty

because I knew that unless we should go to war, which was impossible, we should be deprived of our just influence in settling the Greek affair; an affair in which we alone could exercise an influence and had in fact an interest.

Being in the Treaty and obliged to carry it into execution, the Emperor of Russia having made war upon the Turks as I thought unnecessarily, I did everything in my power to prevail upon the French to act cordially with our Govt., to promote a common interest, that is to save the Ottoman Dynasty, at the same time that we should establish Greece.

Polignac gave us reason to believe that he could act with us in that view. He deceived us, or was deceived himself. It appears by Pozzo's Dispatch that he was too strong for him. This is the truth of the matter. But as for any intrigue with Polignac there was none.

Madame de Lieven must have lied, for at that time she had sent me to Coventry and I never conversed with her.

It is quite true that our Dinner at the Carlton was flat! But our leader does not excite enthusiasm, and *Hips!* and *Hurrahs!* upon toasts do not make up for the deficiency. Nor would my pres-

ence in London. On the other hand every day that I stay here gives me additional health and strength.

Believe me,  
Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

LONDON,  
*April 2, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I shall be very happy to dine with you on Sunday.

I wish very much to see Mons. de Vitrolles.\* But of course I don't receive all the *Gobe-Mouches* who call here *pour passer le Temps*.

If he would call to-morrow or Saturday at 12 I should be delighted to see him.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

\* M. de Vitrolles was a zealous promoter of the Bourbon Restoration in 1814, and had been the secret agent employed by Talleyrand in his negotiations with the Allies and with Louis XVIII. He was employed in the first Government of Louis XVIII., and must have known the Duke in Paris.

S.S.,

*April 5, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am not at all surprised that Dr. Maltby should be the Bishop of Durham. The K. has done exactly as he always will do. He has not the sense to see at what point he can resist. He has nobody about him to tell him anything; and no man can venture to give him any advice.

Since the month of Nov., 1830, he has done the same thing and made the same excuses upon every occasion that has offered.

Pozzo is quite right in respect to Paul de Lieven and his mother.

I have no news.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

I enclose you a note which I have received with the copy of the Dispatch in the Portfolio, which you had already let me have.

In a letter from the Duke to "Miss J." on July 1, 1836, he writes: "This morning I have had a fall by which I bruised my knee, so that leaches [*sic*]



have to be applied." On the 4th he writes again: "I am much recovered from the accident but I am afraid I could not quit the house to-day without increasing the risk of being confined to my house for weeks or months."

LONDON,

*July 10, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was very sorry to learn from Burghersh that you was not so well. I have tried to walk; and succeeded perfectly; and I shall go to the House of Lords to-morrow.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*July 19, 1836.*

The Duke paid me a long visit yesterday. He stayed very nearly two hours, and as we were alone (excepting the first quarter of an hour when Mama was here) I hope he found me agreeable. Nothing can be so kind as he is. He talked a great deal on all subjects. You know pretty nearly his opinions, but I was particularly struck with the mildness of his manner and expressions when

talking of Peel, lamenting his peculiarities and his "woeful want of spirit," but without any asperity, and saying that after all great allowances should be made for that the difficulties of conducting the Government since the new regulations\* are enough to appal and weary most people. I don't think he himself knows whether Peel would come to the point or not if called upon, but he has no doubt that should he do so and dissolve (as he must) that on meeting again he would find his numbers very much increased, notwithstanding which he says, very great difficulties would still be found. He told me a conversation he had had lately with the King which was curious to me as it tallied *exactly* with what Frederick Lamb had told me the day before. The King told the Duke that he had a great regard for Lord Melbourne as he "*always found him a gentleman,*" and that he had desired all communications should be made to him through Lord Melbourne. Frederick had said to me that he believed the King so abhorred his present situation that if he could not get the Tories to come forward he would (*he believed*) rather try the Radicals at once so as to get rid of the Whigs. I asked the Duke and he said—

\* Reform Bill.

no—nothing he was sure would ever induce him *to hear of one of them*. The D. has not yet looked over your paper because<sup>†</sup> he told me they had not yet decided *how* they should treat the matter in the House of Lords. He wishes to wait to see what is done in the Commons, and then he shall consult Lord L.,\* and call a meeting of some of his principal people and decide how to treat the bill, and if they determine on trying to make it better then he will consider your plan. I had a note from Lord L. (supposing I was going out of town on Friday), and he says, "I can't say anything to you about B.'s paper as it is not yet decided if we shall allow the Bill to appear a second time, but as soon as I have anything to tell you I will write to you to Walmer."

WALMER CASTLE,

*August 27, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your letter.

Francis<sup>†</sup> goes on very well.

I'll dispose of you and your children as follows.

\* Lyndhurst.

† Lady Burghersh's third son, who had been ill at Walmer.

You shall be in the room you had before, in which there shall be a bed for Louisa. Rose and the nurse shall be in the next room.

If the house should be full I'll put the boys in the room in the garden. They can all breakfast and have their tea in the room between the dining-room and drawing-room ; and dine at the hour of the luncheon.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Lord Westmorland (his "old master") had become blind, and there were family dissensions between his younger children (Lord Burghersh's half brother and sister).

WALMER CASTLE,

*Nov. 3, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your note. I have received my book. Your account of Grosvenor Square is very sad. I hope that they will have left town before I shall return thither. I am very happy that you derived benefit from your residence here. Lady Maryborough came

over here yesterday with Louisa and Charlotte.\* They had their luncheon and went back. Lady Maryborough was very well.

The meeting at Chillingham was a curiously fortunate circumstance. I don't doubt that the whole party will go to Howick. And then there will be thousands of complaints that I don't start a candidate on the Conservative interest in Hampshire! Mr. Lilley's picture is getting on, but very slowly. He expects two more sittings besides to-day; that is he will go I hope on Saturday.

I have here besides Mr. Briggs, Mr. Campbell,† and Mr. Hall, who is acting as draughtsman to Mr. Campbell. I sit to these three at the same time. I think that Mr. Campbell and Mr. Hall will finish this day and Mr. Briggs by Saturday or Monday at latest. Mr. Lilley will call upon you when he goes to town.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

\* Louisa Fane and Charlotte Somerset, her two young granddaughters. They were all staying at Dover.

† The Sculptor.

PARIS,

Nov. 7, 1836.

\* MY DEAR DUKE,

Your dear Niece, Miss Bagot,† having informed me that you have always taken the kindest interest in everything connected with her welfare and happiness, I cannot allow her letter to reach you without expressing my most sincere hope that when I have the pleasure of seeing you at Eastwell on Monday the 14th I shall have the gratification of hearing that you approve of our intended marriage.

I will only add that nothing shall be wanting on my part to prove myself worthy of those affections which she has bestowed upon me.

Believe me to remain, my dear Duke,

Yours sincerely,

WINCHILSEA.

\* Copy written by the Duke of Wellington of letters from Lord Winchilsea, with whom he had fought a duel.

† Emily, daughter of Lady Mary and Sir C. Bagot. She died in 1849.

WALMER CASTLE,

Nov. 9, 1836.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I know that Mr. Lilley arrived in London on Sunday as he took a letter from me to Lord Rosslyn. I conclude therefore that he wished to see Lawrence's Picture; and to touch up his own a little before he should attend you with it.

I should think that Lord Melbourne must be aware that in these times he cannot get rid of Parl. one day earlier in Summer; assemble it when he may in Winter.

There are some things which must be done before Easter; and he should assemble Parl. at so early a period as to afford time for them. The duration of the Session does not depend upon its early commencement. To Brougham and others whose amusement is in Parl. and who have nothing else to do than to attend there the early commencement of the Session is important; but not so to Ministers who have something to do.

Lord Rosslyn is here and nobody else. I scarcely expect Lady Jersey. Lord Wilton came here on Saturday and stayed till Monday. I got the Grisi\* to come over and sing to him; which

\* The celebrated singer who was staying at Dover.

she did delightfully. But she contrived to offend him mortally by laughing and behaving worse to him than she did even to Mr. Morrice. She went back to Dover yesterday. I am glad to learn that George is improved.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

Nov. 30, 1836.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was happy to receive a letter in your handwriting. Of course you must be very careful.

Mr. Lilley is here. I don't think that he is going on well. He has genius, and he is a dashing fellow with his brush in hand; but he is not steady to anything.

I write to Burghersh to ask him to come here. I think of shooting the coverts soon. I am afraid that you cannot move.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



STRATHFIELDSAYE,

Dec. 4, 1836.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received your note. I recommend to send to Mr. Jones at Charing Cross about your glasses. *Preservers* would in the first instance be sufficient.

Mr. Lilley has been here since last Monday; and has had nine sittings; eighteen at Walmer make twenty-seven. This really is too much.

After painting the head at Walmer, he was to come here to sketch in the figure, the cloak, &c. He has in fact commenced a new picture altogether. The figure, cloak, &c., are done. But the head is in my opinion not so good as the other. I can positively sit no longer. I do think that having to pass every leisure hour that one has by daylight in sitting for one's picture is too bad. No man ever submitted to such a bore: and I positively will not sit any longer.

I have recommended to him to go to town and consult you as to what he had best do.

I can give no more sittings.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Dec. 8, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Mr. Lilley went away and carried away his picture very suddenly last Sunday. He did not stay to dine. I told him that he was attempting that which was impossible, that is to paint over again in nine sittings a head which had taken him eighteen sittings at Walmer Castle. That I could sit no more, having given him in the whole not less than twenty-seven sittings in less than three weeks.

He was not pleased, however, it is obvious; and this is what one gets for making oneself the slave of these gentlemen artists.

The preservers will preserve your eyes you may rely upon it.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

BADMINTON,

*Dec. 28, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was very sorry to hear of your illness; but my anxiety was relieved by Burghersh's account

of your convalescence, and I am much obliged to you for having availed yourself of the earliest opportunity to write to me.

I arrived here yesterday, having been snowed up for a day at Marlborough. The marriage\* is to take place on to-morrow; and I go to Arbuthnot's on Friday.

I have heard that there is some apprehension that the early death of the D. of Montrose will postpone Lady Caroline's marriage; and consequently Lord Winchilsea's. I have not heard that I am to be invited to the latter. If I should be I will go.

At all events, I hope to pass through London in the course of a fortnight; and I will certainly call upon you if I should be there for only a day.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

WOODFORD,

*Dec. 31, 1836.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 29th, which I received this morning; and which I believe was written yesterday.

\* Of Lady Georgina Somerset to Sir W. Codrington.

I hope that you are certainly getting on though slowly.

I made my journey capitally yesterday, and arrived here at half-past six; hours before I was expected.

I am going to Burghley to-morrow, and to Belvoir on Tuesday.

I had a letter from Lady Georgina.\* The eye which had been operated upon had again manifested symptoms of improvement.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

James, 2nd Earl of Rosslyn, succeeded his uncle, the Lord Chancellor. He was Colonel of the 7th Dragoons, and a General—a most intimate friend of the Duke's, who relied greatly on his judgment and ability. The present Lord Rosslyn is his great grandson. He died January, 1837.

S.S.,

*Jan. 21, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The influenza turned out to be only a slight cold in my head, of which I got rid

\* Lord Westmorland had just undergone an operation for cataract.

entirely yesterday; and I have been out hunting this day.

I am sadly alarmed about Lord Rosslyn. He (is) such a loss to me that I scarcely know how I can get on without him, particularly at this moment—the eve of the opening of Parli.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

*Jan. 29, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very sorry to learn that you are suffering from influenza. I have escaped. I had a slight cold, and stayed at home for a day, and got quite well. I have been out hunting twice since. I was wet through yesterday.

Lord Rosslyn is a terrible loss, particularly to me. I have made an effort to prevail upon a noble lord to undertake to perform the business hitherto done by him. I think that I shall fail; and that I shall have to perform it myself, as well as everything else that nobody chooses to do.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

Feb. 4, 1837.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The chair\* is just now come home with the foot-board fixed to it; and I send it to you with its poles.

I recommend to you to tell Julian† that Lord Westmorland never goes in an open carriage; and that he must not practise in this one. If he does we shall have it broken.

I hope that you are better.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

Feb. 19, 1837.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I wrote to the Bishop of Exeter to suggest to him to ask Lord Melbourne to postpone his motion till Tuesday, the 28th, in order that I might be present. Lord Melbourne was not disinclined if I wished it, but, as my letter to the Bishop did not contain the word *authorize* or the word *wish*, the Bishop would not say that I did

\* An invalid chair.

† Her little boy, whose hero at that time was his grandfather, Lord Westmorland.

wish that the question should be postponed! However, I have written to Lord Redesdale to request him to apply to Lord Melbourne, and to let me know the result by to-morrow night's post. If the motion should not be put off, I must go to town *coûte que coûte!* and I want to know by to-morrow's post in order that I may put off my company coming here on Tuesday. Will you let Lord Lyndhurst know this; and request him to urge Lord Redesdale to write to me in time from the House of Lords on to-morrow that I may hear by the post on Tuesday morning.

The Bishop of Exeter is one of the most unmanageable gentlemen in the H. of Lords. And he is the person who requires most attendance and attention. I shall have to travel down here in the night of Thursday. I wonder when it will happen that the Bishop of Exeter will travel eighty-eight miles, half in the night, aye, or ten miles, to gratify me or anybody else.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

The Bishop, however, did give way. On February 28th Lord Melbourne brought forward his motion for the appointment of a select committee to en-

quire into the working of the system of education in Ireland. The Bishop of Exeter—who had called for the enquiry—defended himself in a very strong speech against personal attacks which he said had been made on him by the Commissioners. He cited many cases to show the insufficiency of the evidence on which the Commissioners had founded their Report, and even went so far as to prove the non-existence of a Mr. Robertson said to have been an applicant for a post at a school in Dublin. Thus “the teacher of the school had never heard of him, had never seen him, nor did his name appear in the records of the school as ever having attended there. The Clerk of the Parish in which Mr. Robertson was stated to have lived and died, had never heard of him; the Churchwarden who had been resident in the Parish for thirty years never heard of him, and last but not least, the taxgatherer had never heard of him.” The motion was agreed to. The Duke does not seem to have spoken on it, but no doubt exerted his influence to carry it through.

S.S.,

*March 10, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very sorry indeed to hear of Louisa's illness.\* I beg you to remember me to her most

\* She died (of typhoid) on March 25, aged fifteen; her mother, plunged in the deepest grief, spent a large portion of the following summer at St. Leonard's.



kindly, and tell her that I hope that I shall find her quite recovered when I go to London next week.

I am obliged to go as the Duchess of Kent and Sir John Conroy consider the court etiquette about invitations extends to forty miles round London, at least, when such are sent to me.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

Our publick affairs appear to be in a more prosperous state.

LONDON,

*May 12, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I hope that you got to your destination \* yesterday without inconvenience. The day was terribly cold.

The whole town was elated by Sir Francis' † success. I went to an adult orphan's ball! I found the old ladies there quite in a state of delirious enthusiasm.

There is a report this morning of an insurrec-

\* St. Leonard's.

† Burdett.

tion in some of the towns in Catalonia; Barcelona and Tarragona are mentioned.

The D. of Cumberland told me yesterday first that the King had come to town on Wednesday greatly elated in spirits. He believed that H.M. imagined for a moment that he had got rid of his servants. H.R.H. had likewise discovered that the King had seen Lord Grey and the D. of Richmond in the afternoon, he said together. I see it reported in the newspaper this morning that they had been with the King on Wednesday. But it is not stated in the newspaper that they had seen the King together.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*May 25, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I write you one line to tell you that Mary's letter has been quite successful.

— has written a most complete apology and retractation. I have recommended forgiveness and reconciliation. But great caution and coldness in all communications in future.

I hope that you are better. Arbuthnot is gone home. He was unwell when he left this; and he has since had a sort of numbness in his hands, which renders it difficult for him to write. This is the reason that he has not written to you.

God bless you.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*June 7, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very sorry to learn that you have not yet acquired the power of sleep. However, going out in the air and early rising, whether with or without sleep, are the best remedy.

A dispute between Lady A. and Lady B. or Lord C. is nothing, but when the D. of W. is mixed up with it it becomes important. It is everybody's business; everybody will inquire into it, and know the rights of it. If A. is to know that I spoke of the affair she will talk of it. She will have the inclination certainly and the right to do so. Happen what may, I of course will never

give an opinion again. I told her that I had mentioned the subject to Burghersh.

But every day's experience shews that a man in these times would do best to cut his tongue out of his mouth and open his eyes and ears.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

The following letter probably refers to the Irish Municipal Corporations Bill, which, having been thrown out by the Lords in 1836, was now returned to them by the Commons without material alteration. It was attacked by Lord Lyndhurst in a vigorous speech, and again thrown out.

LONDON,

*June 12, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The King is certainly better. It is impossible to form a judgement of the certainty of recovery or of the prolongation of life. The immediate danger no longer exists.

I desired Lord Lyndhurst to make the motion. I concluded that as he was present when we settled the course to be taken, and particularly when I stated to the Lords at the meeting at my

house on that same morning in what way I wished that the debate should be conducted that he understood the matter as I did, and would act accordingly.

I desired him to undertake the motion, feeling much annoyed and displeased at what had passed ; being desirous of withdrawing from the management of the concern, and of placing it in the hands of one with whom one class, the *Ultras*, such as the D. of Cumberland, Lord Londonderry, &c., were and are in extasies even with this last speech ; and others, such as the Liberals, were more disposed to consider with attention than myself.

However, these and the House of Lords in general are loud in their censure as well of me for giving the case over to Lord Lyndhurst, and of Lord Lyndhurst for his speech. Thus you will see that you have formed a correct notion of this case.

Lord Westmorland is well in health.

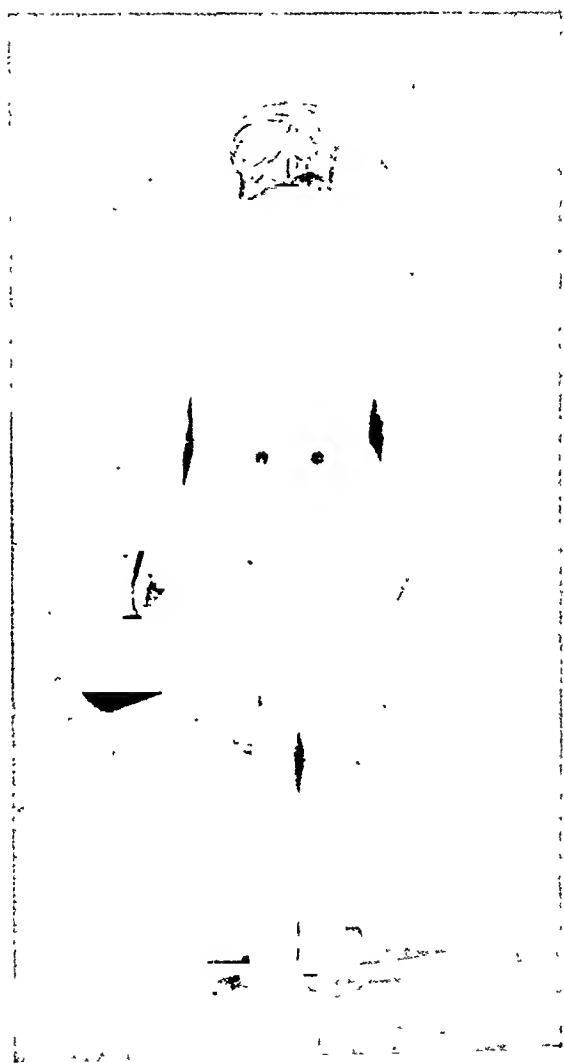
Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

I believe that if I had made the motion on Friday we should not have divided.

At all events that Lord Melbourne would have expressed himself to be satisfied.



THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

*(From a Water Colour sketch by C. R. Leslie, R.A.)*



LONDON,

*June 15, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

What you say is perfectly true. In the existing state of things they could not go on for a day in the H. of Lords without me ! But I have no influence in deciding upon the measures to be brought forward. The truth is that nobody excepting myself ventures to contradict Sir Robert Peel. What I mean is this. I have long intended never to go into a cabinet again ! This will throw into the hands of others the lead and management of the H. of Lords for the Govt. if the Conservatives should again obtain power. He who manages the House while in office will manage it afterwards. Whether with so much ease as I do is another question ; but anybody who will have led the House in Govt. will manage the party which will follow him when out of office.

The King is much in the same state. I don't believe that it is expected that he will live by those who know best. The accounts are very contradicting.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



The King died five days after this letter was written. The Duke felt uneasy at the idea of the young Queen falling entirely into the hands of the Whig party, whom he profoundly distrusted, though he had apparently some confidence in Lord Melbourne personally.

LONDON,

*June 23, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I send you a note from Arbuthnot. He has not been well, but is better. The circulation of the blood is deranged, and he feels it in his head.

He is in a sad nervous state; but I think that tranquillity will return to him in some degree. He is gone to Woodford.

You have seen accounts of all that has passed.

We have a Queen of 18 years of age. Supposing her to be an angel from Heaven, she cannot have the knowledge to enable her to oppose the mischief proposed to her.

She has not even the strength to enable Lord Melbourne to make use of her as he used of the late King—as a sort of *bugbear* to frighten his supporters by telling them the King will take the Conservatives if pushed too hard.

We are governed by a corrupt and ignorant

faction, not supported by a corrupt court, but forced upon the court by the democracy. God help us! They talk of the success of our elections. We shall see! Burghersh is up to the ears in the business.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

LONDON,

*July 15, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have been so much occupied by Parl., the ceremonies of the Court, and journeys to Bushey,\* of which I have made two this week, that I have not been able to write to you. However, I have nothing to tell you that you would not see in the newspapers better told. Queen Adelaide told me this morning that the Queen had made Marionnettes of the Tories; and of the late King's attendants excepting Lord Falkland. He is to be kept on by the Govt.

I understand that Lady Mulgrave is appointed a Lady of the Bedchamber. This is very wrong. Neither am I pleased with the answers to the

\* To Queen Adelaide for arrangements.

addresses which the Ministers made her give yesterday.

You'll see that the K. of Hanover has put down the Constitution! It is not one month since the late king died. He stayed here a week after his death. Yet we hear already of this change.

I see that the Ministers of State refused to countersign the announcement of this intention.

He has taken one for the purpose. All this is very foolish!!

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

WALMER CASTLE,  
*Aug. 29, 1837.*

DEAREST PRISCILLA,

I have received your note of the 26th this morning. I was aware that I had convinced the K. of Wurtemberg. The truth is that no foreigner knows anything of our position. Very few Englishmen are aware of it. I am more alarmed about these foreign sovereigns than I can tell you.

I know that Leopold knows nothing about us. I saw him, but could not talk to him yesterday. I shall see him again on his return; and will endeavour to make him feel what I know that I

succeeded in impressing upon the mind of the King of Wurtemberg.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

Sept. 2, 1837.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

You may do as you please with my letter.

You will have seen in the newspapers that I am going to Windsor. The information must have come from thence. I did not receive the invitation, dated the 30th, till yesterday morning. It was in the *Morning Post* of the 31st August.

I shall go to town on Monday, as in this uncertain weather I should not be sure of reaching Windsor from hence in a day.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

The allusion in the postscript to the following letter is to Sir William Curtis, ex-Lord Mayor and M.P. for the City of London, who was famous for the sumptuous fittings of his yachts, in which

George IV. used occasionally to accompany him on a cruise. He went with the King to Edinburgh in 1822, and caused much amusement by appearing in a kilt. Sir W. Curtis had a house at Ramsgate. He had eleven daughters, all noted for their good looks and cleverness.

W. CASTLE,

*October 9, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Arbuthnot will probably go before I return from hunting, and I write you one line to thank you for letter.

We have a pleasing prospect in the K. of H. annual visits!

It will be scarcely possible for him, however desirable, to settle his affair before the meeting of our Parlt.

I think Lord Maryborough much better, but he must persevere in his plan of eating moderately of plain food, and drinking little or no wine. If to this he could add getting up early, he would outlive all his contemporaries.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

I did not see Curtis' yacht. But I am generally upon the ramparts of the Castle.

WALMER CASTLE,

*October 13, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

If I should have an opportunity, I will recommend Sir J. Smart. I was not aware of any musick at Oxford next June.

Will you write to Pozzo, and tell him that I shall be here till the end of this month, and that I shall be delighted to see him here.

I direct this to London, as you will leave Ramsgate before the letters are delivered.

I did not want the chair, but only that it should not be left at the ready furnished house. But you can have it at any time from my house; and as you have children and I have not, it is more likely to remain serviceable in my house than in yours.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*Nov. 7, 1837.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Lady Curtis is right. I must be at Ramsgate on Monday, and not on Saturday as I supposed.

But I shall go to Walmer as I intended, as I have some business there.

I am very sorry that I shall not see you at Ramsgate. I think that I shall be obliged to sleep there on Monday night, as the gentlemen of the town have invited me to a ball. It would be late to return to Walmer Castle. I shall therefore quit that residence on Monday morning, sleep at the Albion, and go to London on Tuesday morning.

I went to S.S. on Saturday, and have only just now returned, and have heard no news!

It is reported at the Club that the Queen requires to have two ladies—the Duchess of Sutherland and another—at the royal table, which the City do not like as the Lady Mayoress is not to be there.\*

I entertain no doubt that Lord Maryborough will be well if he adheres to the regimen ordered, including early rising.

Poor Arbuthnot has been ill again. But he ought to have his food—meat and drink—weighed out to him; and he ought to be prevented from sleeping in his chair—at least, sleep in the chair

\* The Lord Mayor's banquet, at which the Queen dined.

ought to be counted among the allowed hours!

God bless you.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*May 8, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have been able to get as many tickets as I require,\* and I send you one for Sir Arthur Paget.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

The following letters are curious, as referring to quarrels between silly and ill-matched couples in which the Duke had been called in as an adviser. Such applications were frequently made to him.

W. C.,

*August 30, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I send you a letter which settles the ——— affair.

I hope that the old cordiality will revive.

\* Probably for the Coronation.



Of course, I must do what will be required of me, if all parties agree to abide by what I shall settle.

The ——— affair is very curious. I have already stated my opinion about not reading letters. But people must be cool-headed who read the letters of mad men which they are not to answer.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

I don't wish you to make known my opinion upon this subject. I am certain that I am right, having had much experience upon it, as well as upon others.

W. C.

*Sept. 2, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I quite concur that no insolent letter should be noticed. But my opinion is that somebody should look at all letters. It is otherwise impossible to manage these mad people. If a civil letter should be written an answer should be given. Or a fact stated might be denied or explained if necessary. If something of this kind is not done, it is certain that the negotiation would

be put an end to by sending a gentleman with a message. That is the mildest mode of attaining the object. But other modes might be resorted to more annoying.

If the letters are opened, the answer is simple, open, and manly. "I will not quarrel, and I don't choose to answer such letters in a gentlemanlike tone." The gentleman is thrown upon his justification instead of having ground of complaint.

However, I don't like to give opinions uncalled for, and I will say nothing. You will see that before long you will have a gentleman. But it is better to attack nobody but declare your own position in very civil but very positive terms.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Mr. Lucas has an order to paint the picture.

W. CASTLE,

*September 20, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Dr. MacArthur has just come in, and has told me that Emily is certainly better, and in less pain; but he says that she has still a good deal of fever.

The disorder is an acute rheumatick fever

with some appearance of gout. I am very sorry to hear of the loss of poor Lady Elizabeth.\*

There was nothing new at Windsor. Of course I did not hear of what you mentioned to me.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Oct. 5, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I shall be delighted to see you and Rose on Wednesday, the 10th.

Lord Maryborough has taken possession of Deal Castle. They go to town to-morrow. Emily is decidedly better.

I conclude that the Belgian affair† is settled, or that it cannot be settled; as Esterhazy passed at Dover the day before yesterday, and Pozzo di Borgo is going.

I am glad that I am to have nothing to say to it. I should have settled it with pleasure as the

\* Probably Lady Elizabeth Feilding.

† The territorial differences between Belgium and Holland arising out of the award of the treaty of London in 1831 had caused prolonged disputes, especially in regard to the partition of Luxemburg. This dispute reached an acute stage in 1838, and was finally settled by the Conference of London in Jan.—Feb., 1839.

employé of the five Allied Powers, and not as the agent of the British Govt.

But I should have found it difficult to prevail upon our friends here and their newswriters to comprehend the position in which I should have stood in this affair, however clear I might have been able to make it; and it is therefore best that I should have nothing to say to the settlement.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Nov. 11, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Ernest\* arrived here yesterday evening. I was gone to dine at Deal Castle, and he came there. He is quite well. I have not yet spoken to him about staying here. As I am going to Eastwell Park on Tuesday, thence to London, and thence probably to S. Saye, and ultimately to Bath, it would probably be best that he should wait here till you come over. However, if he should be anxious to come with me I'll take him.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Lady Burghersh's son, aged 14; she was then in Paris.

EASTWELL PARK,

*Nov.* 15, 1838.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have this day received from Paris your letter of the 11th.

I informed you before I quitted Walmer Castle that Ernest had arrived on Saturday. He stayed with me till Tuesday when I came away. I had every reason to be perfectly satisfied with him, and I should have been glad to keep him with me. But I told him of the arrangement which I had made to send him to Deal Castle, and he did not object to going; I believe principally because he was likely to meet you and his father at an earlier period than by coming with me. You will therefore find him at Deal Castle.

Matters have gone on here better than I expected. I go away to-morrow, and I have not yet heard a word upon family grievances. I think it most probable that I shall depart without hearing of them.

I will add a line to this in London to-morrow if there should have been any change.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Dec. 15, 1838.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your letter.

I am very happy to learn that you are returned and so well.

I intended to write to you at Deal Castle, with which residence they appear to be delighted.

I am quite well in health and better in respect to Rheumatism. But I cannot hunt or shoot or do as other people. I am obliged to take care of myself, and the best thing to do is to stay at home till I am quite well.

I think it most probable that I shall go to Bath.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

*S.S., March 27, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have sat to Mr. Lucas. Hayter wanted me to sit to him to finish two pictures, one of the Coronation, the other the House of Lords or Commons.

He had better do as Lucas has done, come down by stage on Saturday or Tuesday, or by

railway any day. Put up at the Wellington Arms and I will sit to him.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

S.S., *April 2*, 1839.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I gave you no answer about the box as I knew that you had the tickets which you wanted, with which you would do as you pleased.

If I should go to town I propose to go to the opera on Saturday.

I am quite well, indeed, as well as ever, but I have not been out hunting yet.

The following fragment refers to the picture Lady B. was painting of the *Waterloo Despatch*.

In 1839 Lady Burghersh had painted two pictures for her father—one of her grandmother, old Lady Mornington, reading the letter the Duke had written to her on the evening of the Battle of Waterloo, and one of the Duke himself writing the Waterloo despatch. The Duke took a great deal of interest in these pictures, and his usual love of truth showed itself in his anxiety that all details should be scrupulously accurate, lending her the actual despatch box, cloak, telescope, &c., &c., he had had in the room at Waterloo, to paint from. In the picture of his mother he wrote with his own hand the signature to the letter she is represented

as holding—"your affect. and dutiful son." He wrote regularly to his mother, and never failed in due attention to her. She died at the age of 92.

LONDON, *June 27, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I don't wonder that you should be bored waiting for an old gentleman's old coat!

But you must get old and young gentlemen . . .

LONDON, *July 26, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was thinking of having some musick here on Wednesday, the 31st. I spoke to Grisi to make a programme for me; I called upon her on Wednesday to speak to her upon the subject. I did not find her at home.

I should wish to have Grisi, Rubini Tambourini la Blache, Costa, any other woman that Grisi would like, or no other if she does not like it.

Will you settle with her a programme if possible this day—two acts.

If they want the horn I'll have Puzzi.

I used to like the violoncello.

Be so kind as not to mention this subject to anybody excepting to those who must execute it, as I wish to avoid to receive and answer hundreds



of notes at this moment, at which I am so much employed. The truth is that when I give a concert or a ball everybody else does the same, and must have all their friends invited, not by themselves, for of that I should not much complain, but by me.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Sept. 29, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have heard from Mr. Willis, and I will show you what he says.

I am going to church, and have settled to sit to Mr. Hayter at about one o'clock.

I hope that Lady Maryborough continues better. This is a finer day, but the wind is from the N.W., and it is cold notwithstanding the bright sun.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*October 25, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was much concerned to hear of the misfortune which had befallen your servant.\*

\* A footman who fell off the carriage at Grove Ferry and broke his leg.

Mr. Lucas is gone to town to prepare for the other picture.

I hope that the improvement in George's health will continue.

We hear here that Lord B. himself was the author of the hoax.\*

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Oct. 27, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much concerned to receive so bad an account of the poor little child!† I was apprehensive that she was not so well, as I met Mlle. R.‡ yesterday as I was going out hunting, who told me that the accounts were not so favourable.

Lord and Lady Wilton have quitted Lisbon and

\* The false reports of Lord Brougham's death.

† Lady Wilton's daughter, who was ill in London. The other children were in lodgings in Walmer under the Duke's care. The little girl died the following January in London.

‡ The governess.

gone to Gibraltar. Oggy and Bo\* will go to-morrow.

Believe me,  
Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

It is now known that the engagement of the Queen to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg was settled in October, but the formal announcement of this decision was not made to the Privy Council till Nov. 23.

WALMER CASTLE,  
Nov. 6, 1839.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much concerned at receiving so unfavourable an account of the poor little girl. I have heard from the poor mother at Cadiz, who had just received the more favourable accounts.

It is five o'clock and Esterhazy has not appeared. I heard from him this [morning?]

He said that he should call here. I am sorry that you should have anything to annoy you! I don't propose to go to London for some time yet.

\* Miss Grosvenor and the present Lord Ebury, children of the Duke's niece, Lady Robert Grosvenor (afterwards Lady Ebury).

I don't entirely believe in the marriage yet. These matters are not entirely matters of course, between persons of that age, met for the purpose of seeing whether they should like each other, even though of royal race. The truth is that she is not yet prepared to marry at all.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Nov. 12, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your letter. I like the view that you take about these children.\* When I go it would be best that they should all go to London. They are quite well now, excepting that Grey† has a cough, the remains of a cold. They are looking in the highest health. They come and run and play here upon the rampart. But I don't think they would come if I was absent.

My opinion has always been that the little child would live till the mother should return home.

\* Lady Wilton's.

† Afterwards second Earl of Wilton. He died in 1882.

But the best chance for her life is her being well attended to; and she should be made happy as long as she lives.

I can order nothing, nor indeed should I like to make any suggestion to the mother at this distance from her. But I'll go up and speak to old Taylor,\* and see whether anything, and what, can be done.

Lady Stanhope told me that Lady Aylesbury had told her that they were coming home immediately.

It is just possible that they may come from Gibraltar straight to Marseilles or Toulon, instead of by Malta or Italy. In that case they will return home, and she will find her child alive. Your Palace news is very curious. Lord Melbourne must have been pleased at his Guildhall dinner.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

Nov. 13, 1839.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Since I wrote to you yesterday I have seen Mrs. Taylor; she appeared to be aware of the want of assistance for Anne, the nurse in London, before

\* The Nurse.

I spoke to her. She said she would speak to Mrs. Perry, the other nurse here, whose services here can be dispensed with, and she will endeavour to prevail upon her to go to London. I have heard from Lady Wilton from Gibraltar. She was to go to Malaga and Granada in the end of the month. From Malaga they will have gone by this time along the east coast of Spain to Barcelona. From Barcelona they go to Marseilles, and thence to Naples.

If you should write to her before the 30th of this month, direct to the care of H. B. Majesty's Consul at Marseilles.

The Princes of Coburg are expected at Dover this day to depart!

Lady Maryborough has just sent me a beautiful drawing of Deal Castle.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Nov. 15, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I did not see Mrs. Taylor yesterday, and I cannot say whether Mrs. Perry went. It appeared

to me to depend very much upon herself whether she would go or not. There is no power here to give her an order if she did not choose to go.

You may rely upon Mr. Parkinson\* doing what he ought. I should think Lord W. must be on his last legs.

I am sorry to learn that Mme. Batthyani† is so ill.

I see that the Queen's Marriage is now announced in the Conservative newspapers.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

S.S.,

*Dec. 1, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I shall expect you, and be happy to see you, on Tuesday. If I wished it I could not put you in a room in this house that is not thoroughly warmed. There are double windows in every room in the house, and the passages, halls, and staircases are well warmed.

If you would like to have a room in which there is a warm bath, it is a little far from the living

\* The Family Lawyer.

† Countess Batthyani, wife of Count Batthyani, of racing fame, and an old friend of Lady Burghersh.

apartments, but the passages are all warmed. I should like to hear from you by the post to-morrow if you would like to have the room in which is the warm bath.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

P.S.—A coach for Hartford Bridge leaves my house in London every morning at eight. We have from hence a regular communication with Hartford Bridge six miles distant.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Dec. 18, 1839.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I was very much concerned to hear from Arbuthnot of your illness, and to learn this morning from your letter that you still felt the effects of the hot air bath.

I heard from Mr. Keate yesterday that the child was better. I thought that Lady Wilton would be at home soon, but as she is coming by Boulogne and possibly Calais, she will most probably go to Walmer.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



S.S.,

*Jan. 5, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I return the enclosed very good letter, and am much obliged to you for the perusal thereof.

I am very sorry to learn the death of poor old Canizaro,\* and particularly on account of the circumstances attending that misfortune. It was very kind of you, but very right of you to attend her in her last moments.

Lord and Lady Douro are here.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Jan. 7, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I shall be happy to see you and Julian and Rose on Monday, the 11th. Let me know at what hour you will arrive at Reading, that I may take care that my carriages are there in time to meet you.

I must go to London in the end of next week,

\* Duchesse de Canizaro, *née* Johnson. She had been much illtreated by her husband.

and begin to act Boniface on that stage, and must move my establishment, plate, &c. But that need not interfere with your plans.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Shall I put you in the same apartments, or any other?

*Letter from Lady Burghersh to Lord Burghersh.*

The following letter refers to the question of the precedence which Prince Albert was to take as the Queen's husband. It was at first proposed to insert a clause in the Bill for his naturalization as a British subject, but this was opposed and dropped. The precedence was granted by Letters Patent.

*Jan. 31, 1840.*

. . . I have a curious story to tell you to-day. Just as I was sealing my letter to you yestr. a Letter was brought to me from Lord Melbourne with *Immediate* upon it. (I can't send it to you because the D. has not yet returned it to me, but this is the tenor of its contents.)

"That he wished very much to see me—he was in the greatest embarrassment and anxiety to

know what the D. intended to do to-night upon the Precedency Question. Could no arrangement be come to with the D. to avert more serious and fearful consequences—such as should not be caused by such a Question?”

This is as nearly as I recollect it. I sent it directly to the D. and wrote with it that I thought I had better *see* him as well as hear from him before I answered Ld. M. He came directly. He said “This puts me in a very great embarrassment. Ld. Lyndhurst and most of the other principal persons in the H. of Lords are gone out of town (having a Holiday to-day) and without consulting them I cannot enter into any sort of negotiation or understanding with Lord M. If Ld. Lyndhurst was in town I wd. consult with him directly, and *I* think myself that an arrangement might be come to which would satisfy the Q. and do justice to the Royal Family also, but then I don’t know that I could carry the H. of Lords with me—so very strong is the feeling against the Bill—and it is impossible for me to hint at such a thing to Lord M. without the knowledge and consent of the Party. Indeed, it would be highly disagreeable to the Party and probably very injurious if I shd. lend myself to any com-

munication with Lord Melb. out of the H. of Lords, and it is a matter of great consideration and prudence how far you may go in talking to him or writing to him—as from yourself abt. my intentions or views—and at the same time I shd. be very sorry to give Lord M. any reason to suppose that I am indifferent to wounding the Q.'s feelings—or that I am actuated by any motive but justice and anxiety for her ultimate welfare," &c., &c.

We had a conversation of an hour and a half and I thought him most *wise* in all he said—extremely mild—but very much determined to stick by the Party. I was pretty well in possession of the case—as he had the day before entered into it very fully—and told me of his Correspondence with the K. of Hanover and of all the difficulties which surround the Question. We agreed upon the answer which I wrote to Lord M. and which was this—

"That I had seen the D. and learnt from him that though he had not seen any of the Lords since Monday last, his notion was to pass the 2nd reading of the Bill this day—and to make such alterations as might be found necessary in the Committee. That my own impression was that

he was very unwilling to do anything to embarrass the Govt. but that he appeared to me to consider that the Question at present stood upon very awkward grounds. I added I should always have pleasure in seeing him if he called.

The D. considers his note to me as indicative of a *falling to pieces* and that the *fearful* consequences he alludes to means that she might send for any other person than him (the D.) when the Mins. resign. My own opinion is that they will hold on whatever happens, till after the marriage.

The D—'s intention in passing the 2nd reading to-night is to shew that he does not want to delay the Bill—and to give time for him to consult with his Lords. His idea of an *arrangement* wd. be to grant him the Precedency during the Q's. life only—and always with the exception of the Heir Presumptive or Apparent. But he said he shd. not adopt it unless he found a general satisfaction amongst the Peers and he knows there are 2 divisions of his supporters—both for diff. reasons, equally violent, against granting the Precedence.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Aug. 26, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have just given orders that my carriage may be in readiness to attend you this afternoon.\* My people are anxious to send a man of their own to attend it. They say what is very true, that when it will be known at Dover that it is my carriage, people will be curious to examine it, and will pull it about; and they would prefer to have a man of their own in care of it.

This need not prevent you taking your own footman if you please. Though it will not be necessary.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Sept. 22, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

You tell me to write to you, but you don't tell me where to direct. Bruxelles is a large town with several hotels. And my letter may not find you.

I admired Mr. Ischanks' pictures. But I

\* At Deal, for an entertainment at Dover.

cannot recollect them sufficiently to give directions about buying any of them. I think that it would not be desirable for me to have pictures by Scholars instead of by Masters. But if you think the four portraits very fine, I shall be glad to have them as well as the Carlo Maratti.

There is nothing new here. Lord Maryborough is quite well, and Lady Maryborough. Lady Clarendon arrived not well.

Lord and Lady Fitzroy and family were expected yesterday. I cannot say whether they are arrived. The day is so bad nobody has been out.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

I beg you to judge whether I shall buy the portraits or not. I shall be satisfied with your decision. I certainly thought them very fine.

WALMER CASTLE,

*October 2, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 27 this morning received. You are the best judge of what will suit me, and the price to be

paid for any picture. I shall (be) satisfied with whatever you may determine.

Your father and mother are quite well.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*October 6, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received this morning your letters of the 1 & 3. I am very much obliged to you for the trouble which you have taken, and am sorry that we have not been successful.

I beg you to present my best respects to the King and the Queen,\* if you should again have an interview with their Majesties.

Your Father and Mother are quite well.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*October 16, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received this morning your letter of the 13th and the enclosures.

\* Of the Belgians.



I will with pleasure pay for the pictures whenever they will be brought over or when you please—that is, 290 pounds for the Holy family, and one thousand pounds for the Teniers;\* and I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken.

I hope that this letter will reach you in time. But yours has been three days coming here. Mine will scarcely reach Ghent by the 18.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

WELLINGTON.

LONDON,

*Nov.* 18, 1840.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your note and my letters. I arrived yesterday in eight hours from house to house.

I have just seen your pictures. They are in the Gallery; but not yet put up in their places.

They are beautiful, and I am very much obliged to you for them, and for all the trouble you took about them.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Pictures now at Apsley House.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Dec. 7, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am aware that you hate quitting London and the vulgar company of the country. I am entirely alone here and have nothing else. I don't propose to you to come here therefore.

But Mons. le Baron Merimée\* is come over from Paris; and Alava has made a piece of work about his having written to me, and my having omitted to write him an answer. In truth, being alone, I did not want to bore the man by asking him here.

But I have written to him and to Alava, and have requested that they will arrange together to come down here together to pay me a visit, settle the day, how long they will stay, &c., &c. Mons. Merimée is a sort of lion whom you might like to see. If so, and you will settle with Alava to be here while he is here. But what I am most anxious about is to avoid to bore you or anybody with me and my neighbours.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Prosper Merimée, the French author.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

Dec. 9, 1840.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have just now received your note of yesterday.\* You shall have my carriage at Reading to-morrow at the hour which you will mention in the note which I shall receive from you to-morrow morning. You'll remember that it is an open carriage, but shuts up as close as you can wish.

I'll send besides a fourgon to bring over your baggage. I shall be happy to have any of your children that you please. I can lodge them all if they were ten times more numerous.

If Julian should not come with you, and will be at my house in London by nine o'clock on Friday morning, he can be sent here by the Stage which comes to Reading in the afternoon, and communicates with this house at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past four by an omnibus.

You had better inform Mrs. Cross† that she may expect Julian to be sent down on Friday.

I am annoyed beyond measure that I should be the means of giving you so much trouble. I can bear anything but to bore people.

\* Apology for invitations to Strathfieldsaye.

† Housekeeper at Apsley House.

It was all very well to invite people to come here when I had plenty of shooting to amuse the young and active, and horses to lend the young ladies. The residence here was then agreeable.

But the shooting being destroyed everywhere ; and having for some years discontinued the keeping so many horses, as I could not ride them, I cannot but consider this residence and Walmer Castle a bore. There is no society for visitors excepting that of a Veteran ; and a few vulgar neighbours, and people are much happier at home.

I will write to Scovell to send Francis\* over here on Saturday to stay Sunday, and go back on Monday.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

S.S.,

*Dec. 10, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have sent you my carriage, and a fourgon to bring over your baggage.

\* Lady Burghersh's son from Sandhurst ; Gen. Scovell, was Governor of Sandhurst.

I expected that you would bring Rose as well as Julian, and have prepared for her accordingly.

You will of course make such disposition as you please of the rooms for them as you prefer.

I desired that Julian should be put in the room next to yours; and Rose and her maid in the next rooms in the same passage.

This can be altered as you like.

Ever yours most affec.,  
W.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,  
Dec. 14, 1840.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I returned home about an hour after you had gone away, and I was so sorry to miss seeing you.

I set out at nine as I intended, and arrived in good time, but the frost was so hard that the hounds were not brought out. I am not surprised at it. It is certainly the coldest and most severe first day's frost that I have seen, for we had scarcely any yesterday. I am not the worse, however, either for the exercise of the drive and ride or the cold. Indeed, I am astonished as well as pleased that I have borne it so well.

I am delighted that you found your residence here agreeable to you. I hope that the carriages, &c., were ready when you wanted them.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

S.S.,  
*Dec. 23, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your note. I beg you to see Mr. Lucas and tell him that the portrait is painted on my account, and he need not communicate with Lord Anglesey about it unless his lordship should wish him.

I mention this because I judge from his letter to me that he does not so understand the matter.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

S.S.,  
*Dec. 25, 1840.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your enquiries about Messrs. Christopher.

I have this day sent them an order for the amount of their demand. I am very glad that

Mons. Merimée was pleased here. It must have been delightful to him to find our populace so much attached to the memory of Napoleon.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

S.S.,

*Dec. 30, 1840.*

I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken with and for Mr. Lucas.

I hope that he will make of this a really good picture.

We have lost our frost.

Lady Douro\* is coming this day.

I am glad to hear that Lord and Lady Maryborough were so very comfortable.

I hope that Mr. Campbell may yet have the Glasgow statue.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* His daughter-in-law, afterwards Dowager Duchess of Wellington ; her beauty and charming disposition made her a very great favourite of his.

## CHAPTER IV.

LAST YEARS, 1841—52.

ON the return to power of the Conservatives, in 1841, Lord Burghersh was sent to Berlin as English minister, and the same year succeeded his father as Lord Westmorland. The Duke's letters, while his niece was abroad, kept her informed of family as well as political events ; and during all this time his kindness to her sons, who remained in England, was continued, especially to George, who was a confirmed invalid. Up to his death, in 1848, the old Duke would mount the stairs to the upper storey of the house in Harley Street to visit him, cheer him, and report to his mother in Berlin. Several of the letters of this period unfortunately were destroyed, having been locked away in a cupboard at Apethorpe and there nibbled and destroyed by mice.

In 1851 Lord Westmorland was appointed to Vienna. Lady Westmorland was returning there, after a short visit to England, on the day of the Duke's death ; she received a note from him in London on that morning, written the night before, appointing to meet her at Dover, which is believed to have been the last word he ever wrote. Little



thinking of the interest that would so soon attach to it, she allowed the little boy of the friends she was staying with (the present Sir Francis Howard, then four years old), to play with and tear it up, as she sat at breakfast just before starting, as she thought, to meet him at Dover.

LONDON,

*April 2, 1841.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have sent to the servant at the Duc de Canizaro's to request him to come and take away the piece of plate which is still in my house.

I don't think that I have any right to do more in respect of the price asked for this piece of plate than to say I will or will not give that price. I answer the latter, and am unwilling to run the risk of impeding the sale of it by saying more.

But if the Duc de Canizaro should alter his price I should be glad to have the refusal of it.

I have so much fine plate already that I scarcely want it. But would purchase it, as I asked the Duc de Canizaro to let me see it.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

LONDON,

*April 30, 1841.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for all the trouble which you have taken about a pianoforte for me.

I have asked my servants to receive it here when it will be sent by Broadwood.

I send you the enclosed anonymous letter to be shewn to Burghersh.

It is like everything else. Nobody else will do it.

The Duke of Wellington *must*.

LONDON,

*May 7, 1841.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The Irish peers determined that they would vote for Lord Castlemaine to be the representative peer on the vacancy occasioned by the death of the Earl of Belmore. I beg you to inform Lady Rendlesham with many thanks on my part.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

On July 10 Lord Howick and Lord Morpeth, the Free Trade candidates, were defeated at the elections in North Northumberland and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

WALMER CASTLE,

*July 14, 1841.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you. You have sent me exactly what I required. I am not surprised at Lord Grey being annoyed. But he must have expected that which has occurred; and I heard that he had told his son that he would not support him by the exercise of his influence nor give him money.

I heard lately, however, that he had sent one of his sons down to support and assist Lord Howick, and had given him money.

It will be peculiarly annoying to him to be beat by Lord Ossulstonē as they consider that family as part of their own.

I should think that the resignation of the Ministers previous to the meeting might, in some hypothetical cases, put us in greater difficulties than by their meeting Parlt. I conclude, therefore, that they will do that which will afford them the best chance of annoying us.

Your father and mother are both here.\* I saw him some days ago quite well. I have not seen her.

Will you let me know if you should hear anything of the Queen's visit to Woburn. I was invited to Woburn; but hearing no more of the visit since the first letter I conclude that it is not to take place. I hope that is the case. But I don't like to enquire *à la source*.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

LONDON,

Nov. 5, 1841.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I think that the best picture painted by Lucas is the last intended for Lord Anglesey. It is, moreover, in the Field Marshal's uniform. He can make a duplicate for His Majesty,† for which I will sit. I beg you to express to His Majesty how much flattered I am by his desire to possess a Portrait of me.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

\* At Deal.

† The King of Prussia, Frederick William IV.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

Nov. 30, 1841.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The offices in the Tower for labourers are at the disposal of the Master General of the Ordnance and of the officers of that department.

Those at the disposal of the Constable are for officers and soldiers of the army. I have invariably and exclusively given to these all that have become vacant. I cannot depart from this practice without the greatest inconvenience. I mean such a one as writing 5 or 600 letters of explanation to individuals whose application I have refused to grant them.

Her Royal Highness should send her commands to Sir George Murray.

I wish that I could venture to depart from a resolution which I have formed never to apply to anybody, Minister or otherwise, for anything whatever. If I do in any instance I must apply to everybody for everything.

As it is I have scarcely leisure time for repose or for meals, doing no more than writing to decline to apply!

To apply, and to follow through the application till complied with, would take ten times more labour, writing, and time.

That which people will not understand is that the whole labour and business and ceremony and everything else of the world cannot be thrown upon one man, and that an old one!!

I'll do what I can. But I really think that people now and then should apply in the proper quarter, and not come to me.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

On this very morning I have received not less than fifty letters, which might as well have been written to anybody else, as I have really nothing to say to that to which they relate.

Lord Westmorland, the Duke's "old master," died at Brighton on December 12th, 1841.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Dec. 19, 1841.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I don't know whether you or indeed any of the family will continue at Brighton.

If you should come to town and will come here, I shall be delighted to see you and any of your children you have with you. There is nobody

here at present but Arbuthnot and Lord and Lady Douro. Possibly Charles may come, and if you would at Christmas I should be delighted. I would send my carriage and a fourgon for your baggage to meet you at one of the railroad stations you might choose, whether Winchfield or Reading.

Let me know if you should come, and which children you will bring, and whether Rose sleeps with a maid or governess in her room.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

On March 9th, 1843, a vote of censure on Lord Ellenborough, Governor-General of India, for his general order of November 6th, 1842, concerning the restoration of the gates of the Temple of Somnauth was moved in both houses. It was lost in the Commons by 242 votes to 157, and in the Lords by 83 to 25.

Lord Westmorland was appointed Minister in Berlin in 1841, and the letters referred to below were written from that Capital.

LONDON,

*March 27, 1843.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much obliged to you for your several letters, and am ashamed that I should

have so long delayed to write to you. But I have been much occupied by the Publick business, and particularly since the meeting of Parlt. by the business in the House of Lords.

You will have seen that we carried Lord Ellenborough triumphantly through his difficulties; and I really hope that we have not only concluded Peace in Asia, but that we shall consolidate the same. The little flurries of which you will have seen the accounts in China, will not produce any bad consequences. On the contrary, I hope that the settlement of them will tend still more to consolidate Peace by demonstrating our sincere desire for it; our moderation and our desire to conciliate.

It will likewise tend to make the publick here feel that a sort of fabulous Englishman is not to be permitted to go about the world bullying, smuggling, and plundering as he pleases; and that if Old England is to enjoy the advantages which have been acquired, the Government must be armed with powers, and must be supported in their measures to carry them into execution, in order to keep these plunderers in order.

I had the pleasure of seeing here, at Windsor Castle, and ultimately at my house at Strathfield-



saye, the Hereditary Prince of Mecklenburg-Strelitz;\* and I never saw a more interesting young Prince. I was particularly interested about him, having heard of his intended marriage with the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, who is a delightful Princess; in whose welfare we all feel the utmost interest. I sincerely and most anxiously hope that this marriage will prove a happy one.

I have the pleasure of telling you that your father is quite well. He has been complaining lately of a cold. But that is passing off, and he is in other respects quite well; as is Lady Mornington.†

I dined at Buckingham Palace on Saturday. The Queen enquired much about you, and expressed the greatest anxiety that you should be satisfied with your position at Berlin.

We have had one Ancient Concert, and I am going to a second on Wednesday under the direction of the A. B. of York. I am to direct the third on the 26th of April. God knows how I am to get on without the assistance of Lord W.

\* The present Grand Duke.

† Lord Maryborough succeeded as Lord Mornington on the death of his eldest brother—Marquis Wellesley—in 1842.

and yourself. But Miss Georgina\* appears not indisposed to undertake it for me; and I suppose I must entrust myself to her keeping. If Mr. Dyce Sombre was not mad, I should be under no difficulty.

Lady Douro says she is better, and looks well. But I have no prospect of being a Grandfather! I see in the papers that Charles is to be married to Lady Blanche.† I know nothing of it otherwise, excepting that the Queen mentioned the same report to me on Saturday. But I have no reason to believe that there is any, even the slightest, foundation for it.

God bless you. Remember me kindly to Lord W. and Rose if she recollects me.

And believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

If the King, or the Queen, or Prince William, or Prince Charles‡ should ever mention my

\* Miss Georgina Jervis, afterwards Mrs. Dyce Sombre, and then Lady Forester.

† Lady Blanche Cecil, afterwards Lady B. Balfour.

‡ King Frederick William IV. of Prussia, and Queen Elizabeth. Prince William, afterwards Emp. William I. Prince Charles his younger brother.

name, I beg you to express my respectful compliments; and my anxious wish for their prosperity and happiness.

Particularly Her Majesty the Queen, for whom I have never ceased to feel the most anxious interest since I had the honor of being presented to Her Majesty. I beg you likewise to remember me kindly to Baron Bulow; and to General Müffling. I saw Lucas' equestrian picture before it went to Hanover. It appeared to me to be very good.

Lord Anglesey expresses great satisfaction with his; and others who have seen it in his dining room in London approve of it.

LONDON,

*August 23, 1843.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much flattered by the notice which Her Royal Highness the Princess of Prussia\* has been pleased to take of my letter to you expressing my sense of the loss sustained by the death of His Royal Highness Prince Augustus.†

You will recollect that you was so kind as to

\* Afterwards Empress Augusta.

† Of Prussia—a cousin of the king.

promise for me some time ago a medallion of myself by Wyon. I am *tormented* (that expression really represents what I undergo) to [present] something to a so-called Wellington Association at Glasgow. I can send nothing but such a medallion. Could you let me know where I could get such a one.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

Sept. 25, 1843.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I see in the newspaper reports that H.I.M. the Emperor of Russia has gone to Berlin to pay a visit to H.M. the King of Prussia, and I think it most probable that you will meet both the Sovereigns at Lunebourg. I beg that if either of them should mention my name you will say that I had requested you to present my respects in case I should be recollected. I feel the highest respect for both. Since you went, I believe in two days after your departure, Her Majesty's yacht anchored in the Downs, having Her Majesty on board.

I went off to pay my respects to Her Majesty ; and stayed on board two or three hours. Her Majesty had with her a squadron of men of war, three three deckers, a 74 and others, and numberless steam vessels. The view from hence was magnificent. The day, one of the finest this fine season. I found Her Majesty much pleased with her visit to the Château D'Eu. She went the next morning to Ostend to pay a visit to King Leopold.

These visits will of course create a great sensation on the Continent, and I am not surprised that King Louis Philippe should be gratified beyond measure by that paid to him at the Château D'Eu ! But excepting the personal compliment, which I should think is very much to be attributed to the alliance of his family with the House of Saxe-Coburg,\* those would be in error who should imagine that there was any motive for the visit ; or that it can be followed by any political or other consequence whatever ! I had expected at one moment that the French press might have been induced to become less hostile towards this country ; and to cease the vile and vulgar abuse

\* By the marriages of his daughter Princess Clementine and his son the Duc de Nemours.



LONDON,

*May 7, 1844.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I received some days ago your letter; but I delayed to acknowledge the receipt of it till I should see Lady Mornington. I never saw her looking better or better in every respect than she was yesterday. She had sent me my letters written to Lord Clarendon at Lisbon during the War, found among her sister's papers.\* I had written to thank her but I thought it as well to call upon her; and I never saw her better in every respect.

I saw your son Francis when he was in London. I met him at a ball at Mrs. Miles, where he was dancing with Clemmy,† and he appeared to be in great favour with Lady Jersey. He is very tall, and well looking; and they write from the Regt. favourable reports of him. I don't believe that the King of Hanover will come here.

God bless you, remember me kindly to Lord Westmorland, and believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

I hope that Rose has got quite well again.

\* Lady Mornington's twin sister, Lady Clarendon, had died in March, 1844.

† Lady Clementina Villiers.



General Horatio Nelson  
in 1794, aged 35.





The following letter refers to the visit of the Prince of Prussia, afterwards the Emperor William I., to England, and is a good instance of the Duke's minute care for details in preparing a plan.

LONDON,

*August 14, 1844.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have looked at the books and maps of the railroad.

His Royal Highness will find no difficulty in going from Portsmouth to Oxford : that is by road from Basingstoke on the S.W. to Reading on the Great Western ; thence to Oxford. From Oxford he can go by the Great Western to Badminton ; thence by the same to Exeter ; from Exeter to Plymouth by road. Back to Exeter by road.

Thence to Bristol by the Great Western. From Bristol to Gloucester by railroad, Gloucester to Birmingham by railroad.

At Birmingham he can go where he likes, either to Belvoir Castle or by Derby to Chatsworth, &c., or back by Rugby to Woburn.

It must be observed that there are always a few miles from the railroad to these places, varying from 10 to 20 miles. I believe Badminton communicates with the Great Western at Chippenham.

Belvoir Castle is not less than 18 miles from the Birmingham railroad.

Chatsworth eight or 10 miles from the railroad.

I think that by a judicious management of his route H.R.H. may make his whole proposed tour without returning to London, which, after all, is scarcely an inconvenience. The amount of it is to drive from one London station to another, such as from the Nine Elms, near Vaux Hall Bridge, to Paddington, or the London station of the Birmingham (rail?) road. The distance in no case amounts to three miles.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

H.R.H. Prince Alfred, afterwards Duke of Edinburgh and Duke of Coburg, was born at Windsor Castle on August 6th. The letter refers to the arrangements for his christening.

LONDON,

*August 29, 1844.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am delighted to learn that you have made Apethorpe Hall comfortable ! I congratulate you upon your deliverance from your guests ! which I conclude has taken place by this time.

I was unable to go to Badminton. I have been summoned to Windsor on Monday the 2nd to stay till the 4th, and I am to go there again on the 6th to attend the christening of the recently born Prince!

But I shall be able to attend the Prince of Prussia between the return from Windsor on the 4th and the return thither on the 6th to B—— and the Slate Manufactory.

I received both your letters this morning!

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

On October 28th the Royal Exchange, built after the designs of William Tate, was opened by H.M. the Queen in person.

With reference to another allusion in this letter it may be added in explanation that the Duke was continually asked to "give away" brides.

WALMER CASTLE,

Nov. 1, 1844.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am very much concerned to hear that you have been so unwell. But I hope soon to hear of your convalescence.

I left London the day after the ceremony at the Royal Exchange; after I had given away in

marriage to Lord Loftus another daughter! a prodigiously handsome one! I don't think that my *beau fils est beau*!

I should have gone to see you only that I was pressed for time for the railroad. I understood that Lord Westmorland intended to come here.

I shall be delighted to see you whenever you will come, and Rose of course. Let me know if she has a governess with her, and at what time you are likely to come. The sooner you come the better: and I think that the air here would do you good. You can have warm sea baths in the house close to your room. I shall stay till the 15th.

The best bust of me was done by a man named Burges, who is employed on the Edinburgh Statue. But I saw only the original made in clay. He has not yet cut even one in marble; notwithstanding that I ordered one long ago for Eton College; and a second for the University of Oxford.

I can say nothing therefore of the execution in marble. But the model was excellent.

You cannot do better therefore than desire Campbell to prepare one, for which I will give him a sitting as soon as I can.

The one which you have\* has rather a profusion

\* Now at Apethorpe.

of hair as well as I recollect. If you will let the King have that I will sit to Campbell for another for you! In that case you can have it packed up for him.

However, do as you please.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Nov. 6, 1844.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received your note of the 4th. I shall be delighted to receive you on any day that you can come. But I must tell you how I am situated in relation to my business. The Harbour Session meeting is fixed for the 14th inst., on which day I should be at liberty, as I hoped to go to London. But if you should be here I will return from Dover to dine at Walmer Castle, and will go to London on some subsequent day.

I am sorry to learn that you do not think Lord Mornington is in a satisfactory state of health.

Believe me,

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

WALMER CASTLE,

Nov. 7, 1844.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am sorry to learn that you are still confined to your room, and that you have reason to apprehend that your father is suffering. I will go to see him, when I shall return to London.

You need not be in a hurry, come on the 12th or any other day you please. I don't think that under any circumstances I should leave this before the 15th, as I scarcely should be able to finish my business at Dover on the 14th in time to go to and arrive in London by railroad before dark.

As well as I recollect the Prince of Prussia wanted to have a copy of the old engraving from Hoppner's picture of me with the horse, which was sent to Fort St. George in the East Indies.

I don't think that I can get one now, but if you will send to Graves in Pall Mall and enquire, he will let you know; and you may desire him to get a good one, and frame it in one of my maple frames and glaze it with plate glass, and you can bring it down with you, and we can take it out of the frame and I will sign it.

If one of these engravings cannot be found, I will give the Prince one which is in this house,

which you can take with you, if that is really the one which he is desirous of having, and I will sign it here.

If he is not desirous of having that particular engraving desire Graves to send me framed and glazed any one you please, and I will sign it.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

Lady Westmorland returned to Berlin in November.

LONDON,

*Dec. 2, 1844.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have just now seen your father and mother, both looking as well as possible and both in good spirits. Your father says he is very well and certainly looks well, but I know of no particulars.

The Queen has informed me of her intention to pay me a visit at S. Saye, at what time I don't know, but between this time and the meeting of Parlt. on the 4th of Feb.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.



LONDON,

*Dec. 10, 1844.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I went to see Lord M[ornington] yesterday in Savile Row, and there was informed that the family had moved to No. 37, Grosvenor Square.

I went there on my way home from the House yesterday and there found Lady M. remarkably well. She did not mention Lord M. [as being] so well as I thought him afterwards.

I never saw him looking better, in very good spirits, his hand as cool as mine. He said to me, "No chance of cutting!"\*

I have not seen any of his medical attendants. But I understand that the same confidence is not felt in the results of the other remedy as when first it was commenced, although it is continued. It is as well, however, that he thinks well of it.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

\* Lord Mornington was suffering from stone, of which malady he died on the 22nd of February following.

LONDON,

*Jan. 26, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

You will have heard that since the end of last week Lord Mornington has been very unwell indeed.

I was at his house on Sunday, the 12th, but did not see him, as he was fast asleep when I was there. I went out of town on Monday, the 13th, preparatory to the reception of H.M. at Strathfieldsaye; who fixed her gracious visit on Monday, the 20th, at the very moment at which I received intimation how ill Lord Mornington was on Sunday, the 19th. However, he was better that evening, and he has continued better in some degree from that time, at least he does not suffer so much pain. His pulse is good; and there is no apprehension of early danger.

I arrived in London yesterday; the Queen having left Strathfieldsaye on Thursday, the 24th, and I have been at Lord Mornington's this day.

He had suffered a good deal of pain last night; and again this morning; and Lady Mornington having enquired whether he would see me, he said he would not; and I shall return every day till I shall see him. She was tolerably well, but out of spirits, poor soul!

I will write again when I shall have anything to tell you that is interesting. At present I have no apprehension of immediate danger according to all that I have heard of him; and no immediate prospect of an operation, or of recovery in any other course.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

Lady Mary, the eldest daughter of Lord Mornington, and sister of Lady Burghersh, married the Right Hon. Sir Charles Bagot, who died in 1843. Lady Mary died on February 2nd.

LONDON,  
*Feb. 6, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

You will have heard from others the details of the illness of your sister, Lady Mary, and of its results.

Lady Mornington had not informed Lord M. how ill she was; and it was thought better yesterday not to inform him of the result; and I was there yesterday afternoon, and advised her not to tell him till the medical attendants should tell her that she might do so.

I went there again this morning before lunch.

I arrived shortly after one o'clock. The accounts which I received of him in the morning were that he had had some rest, and was more peaceful. Upon my enquiring Lady M. told me that I might see him ; and she had not informed him of Mary. I went in and found him looking remarkably well ; having really a healthy appearance ; and not pulled down. His hand as cool and healthy as mine.

I read to him the Queen's Speech which I had in my pocket ; to which he attended with as much eagerness as ever ; and he was mightily pleased with it.

He told me that he felt no pain at that moment ; and if I had not known the truth I should have thought he was going on well. He was mightily pleased at seeing me ; and thanked me repeatedly for my constant attention to him ; and talked very kindly of Lady Mornington.

He kissed me when I came away from him !

In respect to his real state. I don't think that his prospect of relief by an operation is better than it was. Indeed, judging from what I heard yesterday, it is not so good ; but I do not understand the subject sufficiently.

He certainly was not suffering pain when I saw

him ; and he was strong and hearty ; and Lady Mornington likewise was more at her ease.

I will let you know if I should hear of any change.

Ever yours most affectionately,  
W.

LONDON,  
*Feb. 7, 1845.*  
5 p.m.

I go every day to your father's, from whom I have just now returned. I have not seen him since I wrote to you last.

He is quiet and easy ; and still maintains his strength. But the last is kept up by nourishment.

Lady M. told me that he slept a good deal. Of course when he sleeps he is not in pain. At other times he suffers ; and the disorder occasions much irritation.

There had been this day a meeting and consultation of medical men, including a new man intended to be the operator in case there should be one.

It appears that they determined and informed Lord M. that in the existing state of irritation of the seat of the disorder it would be impossible to

undertake that operation which, if successful, would afford him relief.\*

You are aware that he cannot take laudanum in any shape. They are about to give him some other sedative medicine with a view to allay the irritation ; success in which may afford an opportunity for an operation which would afford him relief.

He was a good deal annoyed at the decision but submitted quietly, and has since been tranquil.

He has not been informed of Lady Mary's death.

But Lady Mornington entertains no doubt that he is aware of this misfortune ; and perseveres in her determination not to mention the subject.

She is well in health ; and as easy and quiet as could be expected under any circumstances.

I will continue to go there every day ; and will let you know if anything should occur that is extraordinary.

Ever yours most affectionately,  
W.

LONDON,  
*Feb. 11, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I continue to go every day to your father notwithstanding my constant occupation, but I

\* Anæsthetics were not in use then.

am sorry that I cannot give you any but an unsatisfactory account of him.

In truth his disease and its remedies are in precisely what the French call a *cercle vicieux*.

The disease occasions great irritation in the part which is its seat, which renders the remedy impossible while it lasts.

Then the pain of the disease and the irritation, interrupt and prevent his rest, and this weakens him and alarms his physicians. They give him food, stimulating food, to support him. This again occasions irritation; and they agree to give him a sedative medicine. He cannot take opium in any shape. They give him another medicine which tranquilizes him; he feels less pain, sleeps a great deal, and is more tranquil. But the seat of the disorder does not recover in a state more capable of bearing the operation; and in the meantime they find that he loses his powers, and is generally lower.

This is very much his state on this day.

Your mother is very calm; but I think more alarmed this day than I have thought her up to this moment. She talks freely and openly to me; and is much gratified by my daily visit, to which she looks with impatience. There is nothing

consolatory in this which is the true account, excepting that Lord M. is not in pain, and that your mother is really calm and in good health. Her mind quite steady.

Believe me,  
Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

LONDON,  
*Feb. 15, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

After I wrote to you yesterday I received the enclosed from Lady M. You'll see that Lord M. continued to sleep and was of course without pain.

I heard in the afternoon that the medical men were satisfied with his strength and vitality. He is rather irritable; which is a sign of strength! Poor fellow! it is not extraordinary! The medical gentlemen are again on this day to consider the probability of performing the operation.

The accident to which Lady M. refers in her note was no accident, in fact nothing.

I was seated on a chair in her room which was broken, and suddenly gave way and spilt me; but



I was not hurt or, as she imagined, sprained by the effort to save myself.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

LONDON,  
*Feb. 20, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am just come from Lord Mornington's. You will have heard that he was not quite so well. His pulse having been low yesterday. But he is better this morning. Lady Mornington very quiet and well. I am afraid that there are no hopes of such amendment in Lord M. as to enable them to perform the operation.

The great thing is to keep him quiet and patient. He is the latter, Lady M. says, in a very satisfactory degree.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

LONDON,  
*Feb. 24, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am sorry to have to inform you that your father expired on Saturday, the 22nd, at about nine o'clock.

He had been better in the beginning of the week, that is to say stronger, and he had much rest, and could take nourishment; but there was still no prospect of an opportunity of giving permanent relief.

The power to take food even in the liquid state diminished gradually. His mouth, and I believe tonsils, became sore, and he swallowed with difficulty and unwillingly. At length this difficulty and disinclination became an impossibility, and in the last 24 hours they could only wet his lips with port wine, &c. In the meantime his powers weakened, the pulsation decreased.

He spoke to his medical men at about midnight of Friday, but afterwards did not show any consciousness. He was quite quiet without pain or apparent sensation of any kind. I saw him in the afternoon of Saturday. He looked well; had then colour in his cheeks, so much so that I thought he would certainly live till next morning. But his powers and pulse decreased gradually, and he ceased to breathe at about nine.

There was no struggle or convulsion or apparent pain. His end was like that of a candle burnt out. He had not suffered pain for some days; was remarkably calm, quiet, and even kind to all about him, particularly to Lady M.

She, poor soul, is as well as you could *wish*; better than could be expected. She is quite well in health, notwithstanding the fatigue of the last days, and her mind as clear and as tranquil as mine.

I thank God that I have reason to believe that I have been of use to both—very much to her—in satisfying her into a state of tranquillity upon many points, and in so doing gratifying him and inducing him to feel confident that I should attend to her after his departure, and this I think tended most to the tranquillity and ease, even physical, of his last moments.

His will was opened this day in order to ascertain if he had given any direction about his funeral. A copy of it will be sent to you. It is everything that could be wished. I will continue to attend your mother.

She is now a little anxious and fidgetty about her son who has not yet appeared.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

The last sentence refers to Mr. Tylney Long Wellesley, who married the great heiress, Miss Tylney Long, and ruined her. He had been living

for many years at Brussels in great obscurity, refusing all intercourse with his family, though his sister used to see him on her visits to Brussels.

He was very like the Duke (and his father) in both face and manners, and, like the Duke, was most fascinating and kind to children, so much so that even now, knowing all his deplorable vices and faults, I have a kindly recollection of him.

LONDON,

*March 1, 1845.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have continued to see your mother constantly since the melancholy event. The fatigue which she had undergone and affliction made her a little feverish, and she was under the necessity of keeping her bed on Tuesday; but she has been better since, and quite well this day.

She was a little nervous when she heard that her son was arrived in London, and I thought that the best thing I could do was at once to go and pay him a visit, which I did on the day after his arrival. He lives at the Brunswick Hotel in Jermyn Street, where I went.

The waiter or master of the house knew me, and asked me if I would not walk up to see his lordship. I sent up my card that he might

decide whether he would receive me. I was amiably received. He shook hands very cordially, and kissed me; and the meeting went off as well as possible. I don't think him altered excepting that he has an enormous quantity of hair, quite white, and rather a protuberance of stomach!

He expressed a desire to see his mother. I told him that he had better write to her, and express the desire. But I told him that she was so afflicted and nervous that I thought it probable she would postpone to see him till after the funeral! This she has done! Then I told him that he had better express to the executors of his father's will the desire to attend the funeral, which he has done; and he is to attend on Monday at 11 o'clock.

Lady M. has been tolerably quiet since this matter has been settled; and she is really in very good health at present, and perfectly herself. I see her, and will continue to see her, every day.

Others will have informed you of the contents of your father's will.

Ever yours most affecy.,  
W.

WALMER CASTLE,

Nov. 18, 1845.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I had been a good deal about from this country at Windsor Castle, in Sussex, in London to attend the Cabinet and the ceremony in Lincoln's Inn Hall ; and I did not return here till Monday, the 3rd, and on Tuesday I went over to Dover to see Lady Mornington. She was very well ; looked remarkably well ; and no longer felt any inconvenience from her fall. She was alone at Dover with Charlotte and Kitty Somerset staying in the house with her.

Ever yours most affecy.,

W.

On June 25th, 1846, Sir Robert Peel's Government were beaten in the House of Commons by 292 to 219 votes on the second reading of the Irish Coercion Bill, and on the 29th Sir Robert announced in the House that in consequence of this defeat his Ministry had resigned, and that the Queen had sent for Lord John Russell.

Lady Westmorland was again in England in the summer of 1846 ; the following extracts relating to the Duke are from her letters to Lord Westmorland who had returned to Berlin.

*Tuesday, June 30, 1846.*

I am come home to-day having been a long time with the D. and seen Brougham and the Beauvales, and I shall tell you all I have heard which is to be depended upon. There was *no Cabinet* yesterday after the return of P.\* He saw only Ab.† and Graham, and wrote a note to the D. —merely saying he shd. announce the change of Govt. in the House at 5. He, P., was *immensely cheered* by the mob (chiefly consisting of well-dressed respectable persons) both on his way to and from the House. His carriage *almost carried* by the cheerers. His speech praising Cobden has caused great and genl. *disgust*. Our friends say he is mad, and consider the line he has taken very insulting to those who have *eat dirt* for him. The Protectionists of course are more furious than ever, and J. R.‡ is *not satisfied* as he fears this praise of Cob.§ will raise his pretensions, and he wants to keep as clear as he can of Radicals.

\*                    \*                    \*                    \*

It is supposed that P. will support the new Govt. but will not carry anybody with him except Aberdeen. It is positive fact that 4 months

\* Peel.

† Aberdeen.

‡ Lord John Russell.

§ Cobden.

ago Aberdeen informed J. R. that he shd. have *his* cordial support!!! If P. supports him the Protectionists certainly *will not* and he cannot go on without them or the Rads.

My U.'s\* opinion is that P. has now entirely separated himself from all the rest of his friends and that the disjointed party will come together again by next year without *him*. He is much disgusted and angry. The Whigs are pretty safe till next Session that is certain, as they don't mean to attempt anything likely to be opposed this year.

The D. will retain the Army—abstaining from giving either support or opposition in Parlt., and he will not make use of your proxy.

The D. is very confidential and talks very openly.

The eldest child of Lord Charles Wellesley, Arthur, died at Apsley House on July 6th, aged 14 months; the Duke was devotedly attached to this baby and felt his loss acutely in spite of all his political preoccupations at the time.

*Thursday, July 9, 1846.*

I found the Duke yesterday very low and I think more grieved for the poor child's death than

\* The Duke.



the day before—but this morning he was better. They *were* very anxious about the youngest child but it is doing well. It *had* the same symptoms as the other.

The Q. wrote the D. a very kind and feeling letter upon the sad event. Everybody shews the greatest sympathy. I go every morning to the D. the first thing. *Gosh*\* has been out of town some days and Ly. Douro is in waiting, so the D. has no one with him.

WALMER CASTLE,

July 12, 1846.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The gentleman who is employed to strike Mr. Wyon's new medallion of me sent me one of them some days ago, for which I was much obliged to him. But I want another which is to be sent abroad.

Could you get me one and send it as soon as possible, whether from Mr. Wyon or the person employed by him to strike the medallion. It is to be sent to a person for whom Lord Alvanley has requested from me something. I shall be much

\* Arbuthnot's nickname.

obliged to you if you will not mention that I have made this application.

Ever yours most affectly.,

W.

*Lady Westmorland to Lord W.*

*Thursday, July 23, 1846.*

I was (as I daily am) a long time with the Duke yesterday morning. He told me he had met Peel riding in the Park which is the first time he had seen him since the last meeting before you went.

He (the D.) stopped him—and then joined him though he said he evidently saw Peel had no wish to do any such thing. He opened at once on the state of things—told him all he knew and all that had occurred to *him*, and entered upon the line he intended to take in the future—in short he said he did everything to *shew* and to *provoke* confidence. Peel never responded a word—made no remark, and when they reached the House of Lords he said something about being happy to see the Duke in such good health and then rode off—evidently glad to get rid of him.

On August 19th, Lord J. Russell introduced a measure for the relief and employment of the poor in Ireland.

LONDON,

*Aug. 17, 1846.*

MY DEAR FRISCILLA,

The Govt., and I am afraid the Country, are in a melancholy position. The Govt. has no strength, it exists by the weakness of those opposed to it. I am afraid that as long as Sir Robert Peel exists a strong Govt. cannot be formed.

We shall know to-morrow what Lord John will do about Ireland!

You will be surprised to learn that after all we are to have the Equestrian Statue upon the Archway in the Green Park!

My own opinion is that Parliament will be dissolved, as I don't think that Lord John can resist the importunities of his supporters.

The Statue referred to in the foregoing letter was put up on Sept. 29, 1846. There was a large party including the Queen Dowager and the Princess of Prussia (then on a visit to her) at Apsley House, to see it brought down Piccadilly in procession and hoisted, but the Duke himself was out of town, not thinking it good taste to be present at his own glorification.

WALMER CASTLE,  
Nov. 11, 1846.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

You will be surprised to learn that I yesterday received a letter from Lord Morpeth to inform me that the Equestrian Statue of myself on the Arch on Constitution Hill is to be removed from its pedestal!

I am afraid that this is the Queen's order! H.M. came to town purposely to give it!

I have written Lord Morpeth an answer of which I will send you the copy. I have told him that there are many instances of the statues of men removed from their pedestals during their lifetime. That I have known of one instance in modern times.

But I shall be a singular instance of a man whose statue is removed from its pedestal during his lifetime before even it could have been seen.

Ever yours most affecy.

W.

I consider it quite certain that the statue will be removed from its pedestal by order of the Queen's Govt.

By the treaty of Vienna in 1815 the town of

Cracow with its territory was declared to be for ever free and independent.

In consequence of some threat of an insurrection in 1846, Russia, Prussia, and Austria took upon themselves to hold another conference at Vienna and to hand over Cracow to Austria, in spite of their own previous pledges and of the protests of England and France.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Nov. 26, 1846.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I am much obliged to you for your letter. The Cracow affair will be a serious inconvenience to everybody.

I believe that I was the only person who took the part of the three Allied Courts in the British Parlt. in the last session.

But I said even then that it was incumbent upon them to give the fullest information and explanation to the other Courts, being parties to the Treaty of Vienna, of the circumstances which had occurred, the causes, the course of conduct which had been pursued, and the future designs of the three Allied Courts, as far as the same had been matured. At that time the Republic of Cracow had not been in form overturned; however, it might in fact!

But now, not only has the Republick formed by common consent been overturned! But the city itself and territory, together with the Govt., ceded to Austria without consulting, much more without the consent of the other signatories of the Treaty of Vienna!

What can I say now?

Mind I was one of the plenipotentiaries that negotiated this very subject. I recollect it as if it was yesterday!

I saw your mother before I left town on the 23rd. She was very well, but her mind much occupied by Mr. William Wellesley (her grandson) whom it appears that Lord M. has left upon her! I know of nothing decided about the statue. God bless you.

Ever yours most affec.,

W.

Pray present my most grateful respects to the Prince and Princess of Prussia.

STRATHFIELDSAYE,

*Dec. 17, 1846.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

The candle screen\* is arrived here. It is beautiful; the likeness perfect; and I am delighted

\* A candle screen with a likeness in china of the Prince of Prussia.

to have it. I beg you to tell the Princess how sensible I am of her gracious recollection of me. She could not have chosen anything which it could be more desirable to me to possess, than such a likeness of His Royal Highness the Prince!

It has received a slight injury on its travels. On taking it out of the case which was done with great care, the plate was found cracked from top of the left forehead across the left eye, and the left of the mouth. But it does not in the least injure the likeness or the beauty of the work in general! I think I can have it reframed in London without injury to the likeness or to the general appearance of the work in such manner as to prevent the crack from either extending or widening; and I purpose to make the endeavour. I will take care that no injury shall be done to it.

I can give you no news! The Queen is still in the Isle of Wight, but returns to Windsor on the day after to-morrow!

Ever yours most affecy.

W.

P.S.—I have just now received your letter of the 10th, for which I am much obliged to you. Since Arbuthnot returned to Woodford he has had

a good deal of gout; and since, a feverish attack which reduced him a good deal. He is better; indeed convalescent: has removed downstairs from his room, and there is little the matter with him except weakness. The cold weather impedes his acquiring strength, and in his letter of yesterday received this day he complains again of gout.

LONDON,

*January 18, 1847.*

I have just seen Lady Mornington whom I am happy to find perfectly well in health, looking remarkably well; and better in other respects of what the French call *morale* than when I saw her last, notwithstanding that, as she told me, she fell out of bed three or four nights ago in the endeavour to reach her bell! It appears that she fell upon the top of her head, which was cut, and of course much bruised. The wound bled much. Her clothes and the ground covered with blood. She probed the wound with her own finger and touched the bone of her head.\*

She says that after the fall it occurred to her that if such an accident had happened to me I

\* Lady M. was then 87 years of age!



should have gone to bed again after tying up the wound, and should have endeavoured to compose myself to sleep! and that she did the same! that she did sleep! and had her surgeon in the morning who dressed the wound! That it has not been necessary to bleed her! That she is going on very well! and I must add that she looks as well as ever! and is in very good spirits! and in other respects quite well! There is the advantage of a good example!

I have nothing new to tell you.

Parliament is to meet to-morrow!

The Queen is come up!

The statue is still standing, but we hear that it is to be taken down.

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

P.S.—Lady M. does not appear at all weakened by the loss of blood. On the contrary she appears as if in high health.

This letter (of which a copy was sent to Lady Westmorland at Berlin) apparently refers to the affairs of Prussia. King Frederick William IV. had granted a Constitution, and the first Prussian Diet had assembled in February, 1847, and proved very troublesome to the Government. Lord Strang-

ford was a great friend of King Ernest of Hanover—who was using his influence to encourage the King of Prussia to resist his Parliament.

LONDON,

*April 20, 1847.*

MY DEAR LORD STRANGFORD,

I return the enclosed letter with many thanks.

Firmness of purpose and of character are certainly important qualities for a Sovereign, but possibly foresight, prudence, and discretion are more important.

A Sovereign not under the necessity of consulting a Legislature upon the measures for governing his country should beware of his speeches and promises to assemble such a one, and equally with him who is bound by the constitution of the country over which he reigns is bound to consult such a one upon the measures of his Govt. and the supply of the means of carrying them on, and should take example from the history and fate of Charles 1st, and firmly avoid to involve himself, his Court, his family, and his Govt. in difficulties.

That resolution he can carry into execution. If he fails in adhering firmly thereto he may rely upon it not only that the Legislature will not

assist him by relief, but will do all in its power to take advantage of the difficulties of the state in order to increase its own influence and to diminish that and the power of the Sovereign.

The Sovereign can with safety adhere firmly to this resolution to avoid difficulties, but having as in the case of the King of Prussia formed a Legislature and endowed the same with powers called constitutional, I am afraid that the attempt to avoid the exercise of those powers, by firmly avoiding to assemble or to permit the assembly of the Legislature, will only lead to those evils and misfortunes which ended in the decapitation of Charles 1st and the loss of the monarchy itself.

These are my reflections upon the inclosed letter.

WELLINGTON.

The following letter relates to a conversation with Sir R. Peel at a dinner at Apsley House, in which, after talking of the general state of politics, Sir R. Peel had spoken in the highest and warmest terms of the Duke, and said that it was "the mercy of God to this land to preserve him as he is, for at this moment every word that falls from his lips or his pen are as full of true wisdom as at any period of his life, &c., &c."

*From Lady Westmorland to Lord Westmorland.*

*June 28, 1847.*

When I told the Duke of Peel's conversation with me at dinner at his (the Duke's) house he was much struck with it, and said he thought it looked very much like a wish to *come round* and conciliate old friends, and that he was sure he never wd. have sought or continued a conversation of that nature with me without some object in it.

Last Saturday when I went to see the Duke he told me he was sure he was right for he had heard several things since he had seen me which confirmed his belief that Peel is turning towards conciliation. He told me what those things were and they certainly look like it. He had seen a pamphlet which he says, from certain things in it, he knows must be written either by Peel or by some very close intimate of his.

It is not yet out—but a copy of it had been sent to the Duke by the man who writes in the Quarterly, Croker, with an intimation that it should be properly cut up in the next No.

I saw the Duke's answer to this which I thought an *admirable one*. He says he sees in this pamphlet symptoms of Peel's "*holding out the Olive Branch—and if he does—for God's sake do not let any of us refuse to take it.*"

In August, 1847, Francis William Fane, Lady Westmorland's third son, who was then a young subaltern twenty years of age in the 74th regiment, was staying with the Duke at Walmer, recovering from an attack of fever. He was entirely alone with the Duke and Mr. Arbuthnot, and used to regret in after life that he had not made notes of the stories they used to relate in the evenings of their reminiscences. One evening the Duke surprised him by saying suddenly: "Francis, do you mind hot weather?" "No, sir." "Are you fond of drink?" "No, sir, I don't like wine." "Oh! very well." That night he wrote to his mother offering to recommend the boy for India, and he was in due course appointed Aide-de-Camp to Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General of India. Francis Fane succeeded his father as 12th Earl in 1859.

On August 18th the Duchesse de Choiseul-Praslin, wife of an ex-Ambassador to England, and daughter of Marshal Sebastiani, was brutally murdered in Paris. Suspicion soon centred on the Duke de Praslin as the culprit, and on the 24th he died of the effects of poison taken, as was supposed, with the connivance of the King and ministry to avoid a scandal.

WALMER CASTLE,

*Aug. 24, 1847.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 23 and have given the enclosure to your son Francis, who has since spoken to me on the subject to which it

relates, and he appears quite pleased with the prospect, and confident in his health, and I wrote to Lord Dalhousie to recommend him. He will go in the beginning of Novr. and I will desire Francis to be in readiness to go at the same time.

I am very happy to learn that Lady Mornington continues to be so well! The murder of the Duchesse de Praslin is a very horrible event!

I hear of nothing new! I feel very weary and anxious respecting the result of the elections. It appears to me that we have got in Parliament an entirely new and inexperienced class of men. God knows what they will do!

Ever yours most affectionately,  
W.

George, Lord Burghersh, who had been a great invalid for many years, died in May, 1848. The allusions in this letter are especially characteristic of the Duke's genuine kindness and consideration.

LONDON,  
*Dec. 9, 1847.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I received your letter from Hanover,\* and I am happy to learn that you made so prosperous

\* Lady W. generally stopped at Hanover to visit King Ernest on her way to Berlin.

a journey ; that you found the King so well and happy, and matters going on to his satisfaction ! I have seen your mother occasionally ! not so often as I could wish, but the weather has been very unfavourable for one who likes to ride or to walk and dislikes a carriage. I think that she is much the same in health, and likewise in mind. Always very kind to me and attending to what I say to her. I went yesterday to see your son George, and travelled up to his room at the top of your house in Harley Street. I did not see any of his friends or medical attendants. He appeared to me to be remarkably well and strong. His complexion sallow, but not otherwise than healthy. His skin cool, and the pulse, as far as I could feel it, good. His mouth appeared healthy.

Poor fellow. He was in very good spirits and much pleased by my calling upon him. He was in his bed, and told me he had not gained strength in his limbs, and I understood could not get out of bed without assistance. But he had perfectly the use of his hands and arms.

He told me that he had just heard from you from Berlin. I had told him that I had heard from you from Hanover and that you was on the point of setting out for Berlin. He talked with

satisfaction of your having heard from Francis from Lisbon. I mentioned that I had heard that accounts had arrived of Lord Dalhousie having reached Lisbon.

I certainly thought well of George. He is very comfortable where he is, and at this moment has no appearance of sickness upon him. I will go to see him again whenever I may have a moment to spare. God bless you.

Ever yours most affectionately,  
W.

If the King or the Queen or the Prince or the Princess of Prussia should mention me, I beg you to present my duty to each of their Majesties and their Royal Highnesses, and to express how anxiously I feel interested in the honour and happiness of each, and in the prosperity of their Royal House and Govt. and of every interest of theirs.

I am delighted to learn that the Queen of Prussia is so well.

The following letter tells of the last illness and death of Mr. Arbuthnot, of Woodford, Northamptonshire. He had been a great friend of the



Duke's and also of his brother, Mr. Wellesley Pole, from very early days. He married Harriet Fane, a cousin of Lord Burghersh, to whom the Duke was also much attached. After her death in 1834 Mr. Arbuthnot lived entirely at Apsley House when in town; he was known in the family by the nickname of Gosh. He and the Duke used to walk about on the ramparts at Walmer together, talking over old times, and were once described by the housekeeper there as "our two dear old gentlemen so happy together."

LONDON,

*August 18, 1850*  
*(at night).*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

Till I received your note, I did not know that you had not gone out of town or I should have apprised you in the morning of the serious prospects that we should lose our poor invalid! In the last days he had become much weaker! Some of the worst symptoms had reappeared, such as particularly the deranged action of the heart; he had taken less food; the food had produced less effect, and there were symptoms—sickness, &c., which manifested failure of constitution; the restless nights continued! He was worse this morning and had sent for his physicians at an early hour.

Shortly after I returned from Church\*—that is before eleven—they informed me that they found him worse and more weak than yesterday and that they feared the worst at any moment. I went in to him and found him very weak but suffering no pain. Prayers had at this time been read him by his sons and Mrs. Arbuthnot.† He was suffering no pain and complained only of exhaustion. He was conscious, but spoke with difficulty. He knew that his hand was in mine. He said it was satisfactory to him to feel that he was going. He was quite quiet, and his appearance as satisfactory as I could imagine that of any man at such a moment. After a certain time he desired to be left alone with one of the physicians, and we all retired, leaving Ferguson with him. This was at about 12 o'clock. I did not see him afterwards. He continued in the same state, the probability that he might expire at any moment and that he could not survive many hours. He died at about ten minutes after three, without struggle, convulsion, or apparent pain, just as a flame or candle would expire from extinction. When his hand was in mine before twelve, I felt

\* The Duke always attended the 10 o'clock service at the Chapel Royal.

† Mr. A.'s daughter-in-law.

the cold in the ends of his fingers, showing the blood did not circulate to the extremities at the time.

His has really been the death of the good and upright man, worn out by disease.

God bless you. Believe me,

Ever yours most affectionately,

W.

The rivalry between the Austrian Empire and the northern kingdoms of Prussia, Hanover, and Saxony (the Drei-Königsbund) for the dominant influence in Germany had at this time reached a crisis. The withdrawal of Hanover and Saxony from the Bund, left Prussia face to face with Austria, and a rebellion in Hesse Cassel seemed to render a conflict inevitable; but by the influence of the Emperor of Russia a convention was signed at Olmutz on November 29th, 1850, which for a time put off the evil day.

STRATHFIEDSAYE,

*Dec. 23, 1850.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have long intended to write to you! But I really did not know to which place to direct my letter, whether to Hanover, Berlin, or Vienna!

However, at last I think that this will reach you at Berlin!

I have been endeavouring to understand German affairs to which I have not yet attained! I understood the unfortunate aim of the armament, and the danger that attended it, and I confess that I was astonished that any counsellors of the King of Prussia, having taken a just view of his position, and seeing how accurately it is delineated in our histories of King Charles 1st, and in the French histories of Louis 16, did not represent to His Majesty the danger to his authority and even to his person of the encouragement given to warlike preparation in Prussia by his Majesty and his Govt. However, the transaction at Olmutz has terminated that danger for the moment!

There is, God knows, enough still to be settled in Germany, throughout which country it appears to me that men think much more of what they are to say than of what they ought to do!

I have not seen anything of your son Burghersh! But I hear he is still very unwell! You must, however, have accounts of him much better to be relied upon than any that I can give you. When I shall leave this place it will be to stay in London! and I will make it my business to see

him! and if there should still be any ailment, I will let you know exactly what I shall hear about it.

\* . . . . .

Lord Beaumont and others have been exactly what the Govt. could have wished, and I think that the Govt. will have it in their own power to take any course that they please!

Lord Brougham has not returned from Cannes. He will find the Crystal Palace entirely in and — by the middle of Jany. I saw it some days ago, and it was then nearly finished!

. . . . .

WALMER CASTLE,

*Aug. 30, 1852.*

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

My little Grand Duchess † went away Saturday afternoon mightily pleased with her visit here, and was landed at Ostend at  $\frac{1}{2}$ -past one on Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning by Capt. Smithett.

I have not received Julian's Book of Poems, but I daresay that it is in my house in London. I

\* The bottom of the page is missing.

† I think this was the Grand Duchess Catherine of Russia—a niece of the Emperor Nicholas.

have not much time to read poetry, but I certainly will this book when I receive it.

Your account of this fresh dispute\* with the Austrian Government is very miserable. The truth is that we are lost in this country in the search for popularity. Only conceive calling upon an independent Sovereign to punish one of his subjects *severely* for anything! All these Sovereigns are sworn as well as our own to administer justice to their subjects in everything. Can one of his Ministers give an official assurance to another Sovereign that a subject shall be *severely punished* for having acted towards one of the *sovereign people* as he considered it his duty to act. He may say that the act shall be severely enquired into, and if the party complained of is found guilty he will be punished as the law of the country directs and permits! This is the answer that ought to be given! But this answer will not do here!

What we require is to be able to flatter the vanity of the sovereign people! to be cried up by

\* Concerning an English traveller arrested by the Austrian police at Florence. There were continual difficulties at that time with Englishmen coming into collision with the authorities in Austrian towns under martial law, and Lord Palmerston's arrogant despatches caused great ill-feeling.

their vile Press as a Government bullying the world in protection of the sole amusement and habits in foreign countries of each thirty-millionth part of the sovereign people wandering about in search of amusement. I know them well; I have had to deal with them!

What do you think of one of them complaining to me of a warder of the tower who had the *insolence* to tell *him*—a *citizen of London*—that the road which he was going was not a thoroughfare, as if he, being a citizen of London, did not know it!—that was the whole offence! I observed that it was not written on his face that he was a citizen of London, and that I never heard that it was offensive to tell a man that the road on which he was walking was not a thoroughfare! that this information is usually given by placing bars or heaps of stones on the road, but that to tell of it appeared to me to be at least as inoffensive. But this is the way in everything: one of the sovereign people is to do what he pleases, and everybody must be severely and in the most publick manner punished who attempts to prevent or resist any act for his amusement or pleasure!

Lady Westmorland was again in England in the summer of 1852. In the month of August, when she was staying at Apethorpe, the Duke wrote to her (letter not preserved) saying he was detained in town longer than he expected, and regretting she had left. She went back immediately and spent two days with him at Apsley House, and returned much impressed with his extreme mildness and tenderness. He went over many of the pictures, &c., also treasures with her, speaking of their future destination, &c., &c. She spoke to him of the book her son Julian had lately published, which he asked her to send him, and finally left promising to join him again at Walmer for a day on her way abroad on September 14th.

WALMER CASTLE,

Aug. 31.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I write only to say I have received the volume of Julian's Poems. I read the one addressed *Ad Matrem*, which is very pretty. I am no judge of poetry! but this one appears excellent, and I don't doubt of the merits of all.

Ever yours most affecy.

W.

Julian Fane was as a child a special favourite of the Duke's, who used to be amused at his quaint sayings. One of them that especially amused



him was that when the old gardener at Walmer was objecting to a raid on the fruit trees by a party of children, Julian (about 7 or 8 years old) was heard to say, "Never mind, let's go to the Duke; *he always allows everything and gives you what you like directly.*" The said gardener, Townshend, was a great character at Walmer. He had been the Duke's orderly (at Waterloo?), and had been taken into his service on his discharge. The story was that, when the Duke proposed to make him gardener at Walmer, he objected that he knew nothing of gardening; and the Duke's answer was, "No more do I, but you can learn." And Townshend *did* learn, and made in the end an excellent gardener. After the Duke's death he became a warder at the Tower.

The Duke at Walmer certainly showed great kindness to all his poorer neighbours, talking with them familiarly in his walks and entering into their concerns. A very old fisherman (now dead) who had spent his whole life within a stone's throw of Walmer Castle, remarked a few years ago, speaking of the various occupants of the Castle, that "we have had some very good and very kind people there, but no one quite so homely as our Duke."

There used to be a curious old cottage in these days on Walmer Beach made out of an old boat—exactly like Mr. Peggotty's house described in *David Copperfield*—and it used to be a favourite amusement of the Duke's to take his visitors to see the old woman who lived there, and who was a noted character among them.

Julian Fane had gained the Chancellor's Medal at Cambridge for a poem on the Death of Her Majesty Adelaide, the Queen Dowager, and published a volume of poems in 1852.

APETHORPE,

Sept. 2, 1852.

Julian continues to receive *unbounded* applause, and I was much touched at a letter from the Duke to-day saying he "never reads poetry, for he has no time—and is no judge of it—but that he shall of course read Julian's with attention, and he adds: "I only write now to say I have just read through the poem *Ad Matrem*, and think it beautiful, and have no doubt of the merits of the rest."

This is a great deal *for him* and pleases me much.

WALMER CASTLE,

Sept. 12, 1852.

MY DEAR PRISCILLA,

I have received your letter of the 10th in which you have informed me that you will go to Dover on Tuesday next, and you express a desire I should meet you there. I will certainly go there on Tuesday. It might be convenient to both of us

DD

if you could write me a line to Walmer Castle, Walmer, Deal, and send it by the post to-morrow, and let me know by what train you could leave London on Tuesday. I will be at Dover at the moment when you should reach that place.

Ever yours most affecy.

This letter is endorsed in my mother's handwriting :

"He died on the morning of Sept. 14, the  
" *Tuesday* on which he proposed to meet me."

She received another note from him written on the 13th, to say his carriage should be at the station—on the morning of the 14th, before leaving London.

DOVER,

*Tuesday Evg.*

MY DEAREST,

I have just sent you a Telegraphic Message to tell you of the sad and sudden event! I can hardly yet believe that my dearest Uncle is no more! I expected to find him here to-day as he wrote to me yesty. that he wd. be at the Station to meet me. Not seeing him I came on to the Inn, and soon after Ld. Clanwilliam came with a note from Ly. Charles Wellesley to say he had been taken ill and cd. not come. I questioned Clanwm.

who said it was very serious, and that Telegraphic Messages had been sent to several Doctors in London, but none had arrived when he left. I got a Fly directly and Francis and I drove over. At the Drawbridge old Townsend in tears told me "It is all over—he is gone." I went in, and saw Charles, Ly. Charles and the Servants all in consternation. He died about an Hour before I got there. He was perfectly well yesterday Evening, talking of coming over here to meet me, and the last thing he sd. to his Servt. at night was to order his Carriage to be ready in the morning to bring him here, and said, "I shall know the hour when I get Lady Westmorland's letter in the morning." When Kendal went in this morning he sd., "Send for the Apothecary." The Apothecary came and found him complaining of sickness. He told Charles he thought it was a derangement of stomach only; and he was going away to return in 2 hours, when Kendal said, "The Duke still intends to go to Dover." Charles said, "You had better prevent him," and the Apothecary said, "Certainly, he ought not to go out," and that he would return in half an hour and tell him so. He had scarcely left the house when a Fit came on, and he never spoke afterwards. I saw him lying

on his bed in the room where I have spent so many hours with him, looking just as if he was asleep, calm and placid, and I kissed his dear face which was still warm. All the way to Walmer I was thinking that I *could* not leave him in danger and must stay there; but now all is over I feel I can be of no use, and therefore I shall cross over to-night, the Sea being perfectly calm, and shall proceed on my journey just as I settled yesty. I am deeply affected, and yet I feel it is not an event which we *ought* to mourn—for it has been a happy death to him without pain or suffering and in the *full* possession of all his faculties up to the last. But what a Loss! to the Country—to the Government—to *us*—and indeed to the world! I cannot write any more now. God bless you.

I left Rose here when I went to Walmer, and she was to have followed this evening if I did not send or return. Francis came down to see me off.

*To Lord Westmorland.*

PARIS, Sept. 16, 1852.

MY DEAREST,

We arrived yesterday at half-past six—an hour later than the railroad book stated—and too

late for the post. We are in a comfortable apartment at the Hotel Canterbury which Mr. Moore took for me—opposite the Hotel de Douvres where you were. We had a very smooth passage, but slow (two hours) owing to a thick fog. I lay down in the cabin, and was not the least sick. We got to Dessins a little before 12, and set off at 8 in the morning from Calais.

Dear Francis, whose attention and tenderness to me has been just what Ernest shewed me when I was in grief at Dover after poor George's death, returned from Calais to London. I have begged that he and Julian will attend the funeral. As you cannot be there I am very anxious that they should both show this mark of respect to him who was so kind to them—and as you will not be in Vienna Julian's delaying a few days will not inconvenience you.

I cannot yet recover the shock, or think of anything but him who during my whole life has shewn me such constant kindness, confidence, and affection—and never more than during these last six weeks. I like to think that the last letter he wrote was to me, and the last order he gave was for his carriage to come to see me; and to the last hour of my life I shall cherish his memory with

the tenderest affection and gratitude. I take comfort from thinking we could not have desired for him a happier end.

He was well and able to enjoy himself to the last, and it is a mercy that the seizure came on when it did, so that he had his servants about him, Charles and Lady C. with him, and died in his own bed.

He might have been seized in the night and died before anyone knew it—or if it had come on a few hours later when he would have been on the road or at the Ship Hotel with me. It is a comfort to me to have seen him without any change having taken place—placid, and as if he had just fallen asleep. I brought away a bit of his hair, and kissed his dear placid face which was still warm. All the servants begged to see me before I left Walmer. The old groom, the coachman, Townsend.\* It was most moving to see their grief. Collins† and Kendal‡ both said how glad they were I had come to look at him once more, "for he always loved your Ladyship, and thought more of you than anyone."

I have heard from Emily. She says Fitzroy was dreadfully affected. He went down to Walmer

\* The old gardener.      † The butler.      ‡ Duke's valet.

yesterday morning. Parkinson had been sent for (he was in Cheshire). I am afraid he had not signed his will. I mean't to leave this to-morrow, but Rose has got a bad cold, and I have kept her in bed this morning, and if she is not much better than I expect her to be this evening I shall stay over to-morrow. She had a little cold on leaving London, and I fear staying on deck at night increased it.

I sent last night to Henry\* (Ld. C.) as I thought he could barely have heard of the event, and would wish for details. And so it was. He was very grateful to me and shewed a great deal of feeling. I shall not see anyone else. Being quiet is the best thing for me: and that I can be perfectly. I have only walked out with Hatton to a mourning shop to get some black clothes for Rose and me—for of course we had not brought any with us. The street looks very cheerful, and the town appears to me very much improved. If I stay to-morrow I will call on Mme. Bresson.

Just before I left London I got your letter telling me of your success, and was thinking on the railroad how glad I should be to tell *him* of it. I have no doubt you will get all the credit you deserve.

\* Lord Cowley.



His death will be a dreadful loss to the Govt. God bless you. I know you will be very much affected. I am glad the Reviews at Pesth will be a distraction to you. God bless you.

In a letter to Mr. Hood, her son's tutor, Lady Westmorland wrote on Sept. 18:

"I cannot describe to you how deeply I am grieved. He was during my whole life the kindest and most affectionate of friends and advisers, and I believe there never was more perfect confidence than existed mutually between us. He never varied in his tenderness to me and mine, and never was more affectionate to me than in these last weeks.

"I cannot reconcile my mind to the idea that he is gone.

"Dear Francis was a great comfort to me in those sad moments, and was as tender and kind as they all are to me on all occasions.

"I am quite well in health and did not suffer from sea-sickness.

"Believe me,

"Ever yr. affecy.,

"P. WESTMORLAND."

The opinion of contemporaries can hardly fail to be of interest and value, and the following letters from Lord Brougham are therefore appended as exhibiting his appreciation of the Duke's character.

*Letters of Lord Brougham to Lady Westmorland.*

BROUGHAM,

Sept. 15, 1852.

This is indeed a severe blow and not to be got over. I had been indulging in fond hopes of his lasting for years—he had been so very well of late. I feel as if the world were no longer the same it has been. The first thing I thought of was you after the shock, and just as I was going to write to Apethorpe I see by the papers you are at Walmer.

In the midst of it all there is this consolation. He had a short illness, and as nothing would have distressed him more (and therefore all of us) than a long suffering—not from pain, but weakness and increasing infirmities—it is a great blessing that he has been spared this calamity.

God bless you, and give me a line to say how you are bearing up under it. My kind regards to the C. Wellesleys—I have thought much of them; it is most satisfactory that they were there.

BROUGHAM,

Sept. 21, 1852.

I have just received your letter from Paris of the 18th. I had written to you the moment the fatal intelligence reached me here. I saw you were at Walmer and directed there. What is to be said? Nothing can console us privately except the single circumstance of his illness having been so short, his having been spared what he could ill have endured—a long decay. He regarded this possibility with just horror. But publicly the loss is quite irreparable, and will be daily felt. He was always ready to be appealed to, and often was actually appealed to, and his authority was unbounded with all. The world seems no longer what it was—and far from being worth living in. In this sentiment Denman concurs in a very beautiful letter which I will send you when you are securely settled at Vienna. He properly points to the Duke's inflexible love of justice as his finest moral characteristic.

CANNES,

Oct. 22, 1853.

No doubt it is one of the greatest evils of our situation (*la Position* as the French say) that *he* is

gone, both because that very change makes all these powers quite different in their views and apprehensions, and also because he would have prevented faults and omissions at every turn. It is the feeling uppermost in one's mind, and it is a very painful one in all respects—public and private.

The enclosed memorandum was written by Lady Westmorland shortly after the Duke's death, with the view of preserving for her children a true account of his character.

*On the Duke of Wellington, 1852.*

The kindness of his heart showed itself in his love of children from the earliest age, the delight he took in their prattle and remarks, and his dislike to any severity being used towards them. He liked to praise them, and always said the best way to make a child good was to show him that he was considered a good child, &c.

He was considerate to his servants, and did not like his carriages and horses to be used at the hours of their meals.

His charities were extensive, but mostly secret. He did not like putting his name to subscriptions, but often sent large sums privately.

His temper was naturally warm, and sometimes broke out into strong though short fits of passion. They were invariably followed by regret if he had said anything harsh, which was shown by redoubled kindness towards the object. He used to be overwhelmed with applications and requests of all kinds from all quarters, and when in his retirement at Walmer, the post daily brought him from 30 to 40 letters of this kind. Sometimes his patience gave way and he expressed himself loudly while opening and reading these petitions, but if he was carried away to use severe expressions against the writer of any of them, those who knew him well were pretty certain that *that person's* request would be granted if it were possible for him to do so.

No man was ever so generally consulted and confided in. Not only public affairs, but the most delicate private concerns were constantly brought before him for advice and assistance. His opinion was always in favour of conciliation and indulgence, and many family feuds have been stifled and family misfortunes mitigated by his beneficent interference. When his upright mind found it necessary to blame he often tempered his reproofs by acts of generosity and kindness.

The widow of a person distantly related to him

being left with a moderate income and several children had often applied to him for assistance for the purpose of improving the education of her sons. Two or three years after her husband's death she went to him and entreated him to assist in extricating her from debt. He desired to know what the debt was, and found it amounted to a very large sum. He enquired into all the particulars of her establishment, and found that her house rent, servants, &c., were upon a scale which consumed double her income, and that the expense of her sons' education had been solely defrayed by his gifts. He represented to her in strong terms the dishonesty and the folly of her conduct, and told her to return home and reflect upon it. She left him abashed and discomfited, thinking she had lost his friendship and protection for ever. The next day, however, her lawyer informed her that the D. had placed in his hands a sum sufficient to pay the whole of her *debt*, and on her going to thank him for this generosity, he shewed her a paper he had drawn up to reduce her expenses to her income, and told her that if she would do her duty by her children and live according to her means as he pointed out, he would supply whatever was wanted for the educa-

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tion and advancement of her children, and this he continued to do till they were grown up and provided for. He had the most unbounded confidence in those of whom he had formed a good opinion, but he never forgave a deviation from truth. He has often said, "I know there are things that cannot be said, but no one need say anything that is not. Let him hold his tongue if he can't say the truth." He was lenient to many faults, indulgent to many weaknesses, but he never forgave wilful untruth.

This view of the Duke's character was certainly the one that impressed itself most readily on the minds of children; my own recollections are that, though some of our other older relations inspired one with great awe, one never felt anything but perfect freedom with the Duke. I think that even children were conscious of his absolute justice, and knew that he would never forbid anything or be angry about anything without good cause. An incident which happened when I was a little child may be taken as illustrative of his absolute sense of justice. I forget if it was at Walmer or Strathfieldsaye that he one evening in the drawing room rang the bell several times, and no servant answer-

ing it he became extremely angry. When, at last, a footman appeared, the Duke stormed (with very strong language) at his neglect of duty. I, a small child, so far from being frightened thought it exceedingly funny to see the Duke angry and went into fits of laughter. This checked him, and the footman then interposed, saying, "If your Grace will look you will see the bell is broken and never rang at all. I only came in for something else." The Duke examined the bell and then turned to the footman and said, "Yes, I was wrong. I am very sorry, William, and I beg your pardon"; and then turning to me added in his gruff voice, "always own when you are in the wrong." I have never forgotten this little scene, but considering how young I was, I would not have trusted my own recollections if I had not in after years more than once heard my mother speak of it, and the impression it had made on those who witnessed it.

It has been said that the Duke neglected his old friends, and that, amongst others, Lord FitzRoy Somerset was never his guest at Strathfieldsaye or Walmer. So far was this from being the case that he and his family were guests there certainly every year. His kindness to them was the same as to us. As to the relations between himself and Lord



FitzRoy, a memorandum written by my mother soon after Lord Raglan's death bears testimony to the mutual attachment and regard subsisting between these two great men. It says—

*Undated Memorandum by Lady Westmorland.*

After the Battle of Toulouse, the Duke came up to Paris where the Allied Sovereigns and Ministers were assembled to confer with them. He brought no one with him except Lord FitzRoy.\* I was at that time at Paris, having accompanied Ld. W. through the Campaign of 1813-14 (with the Austrian army to which he was accredited), and my father and mother with my sister had just come from England to meet me at Paris. The day of his arrival the D. dined with us and brought Ld. F., who then for the first time saw Emily, and before he left Paris (in I think less than a week), he formed that attachment to her which glowed in his heart till the last moment of his life, and which I am firmly convinced never waned for one moment.

The D. went from Paris to Madrid and my father accompanied him. The latter was so much struck during the journey with the merits of

\* Lord F. Somerset.

the young A.D.C., and with the entire confidence and high opinion with which the D. regarded him—that when soon after their return to England he proposed for Emily, my father at once and with joy consented to the match, tho' some of our relations considered that being a younger son, with but a small annuity and no power of settling a farthing on wife or children (for the Duke of Beaufort, his father, left only annuities to his Sons which expired with them), it was not so "*good a match*" as the young lady who was very much admired and courted, might look to. I remember hearing my father say—"I had rather see my daughter married to him, than to the richest Duke in the kingdom, so admirable do I think his conduct and disposition. Besides which, with his talents and industry, and high character, he is quite sure to become a most distinguished man."

Those who had doubted very soon came to the opinion we all agreed in, that she was the most fortunate of women in her marriage. My father's affection and *respect* for him were as constant as his own affections. To the day of his death my father consulted him on everything, and he left him his executor. It is *incredible* to how many

persons he was executor, trustee, and guardian, and how he found time in the midst of all his business to attend to so much for other people. Before he left England the last time he had placed in separate drawers all papers relating to separate trusts, and all in the most perfect order.

Having said that my father had *respect* for him, which is quite true notwithstanding the difference of age, I must say that the Duke always showed that feeling towards him in a remarkable degree. Notwithstanding the intimacy in which they lived, the D. never spoke of him but as "Lord FitzRoy." How often has he said to me, "What does Lord FitzRoy say?" "You had better consult Lord F.," and on all military matters, especially during the latter years, he used constantly to say, "I cannot say anything till I have asked Lord F. what he thinks. He will know the state of the case (or, he knows all these things) much better than I do."

Everybody knows that he was devoted to the D., but very few know to what an extent—how his whole life was passed in serving him, assisting him, and trying to relieve him from trouble and anxiety. This devotion was so paramount to every other consideration that he preferred remaining as long as the D. lived in the subordinate situation

of Military Secretary, altho' he might have been placed in high situations in India, in Ireland, and in Canada, if he had chosen. Though the most modest and least vain of men, he knew of what importance he was to the Duke. I remember (in the year 1845 I *think*, but I cannot exactly remember the date) on going one day as usual to the Duke's room at Apsley House in the middle of the day, he asked me immediately, in evident anxiety, if I had seen Lord FitzRoy. On my answering *No*, he told me that an offer had been made to him to go out to Canada as Govr. Genl.; that he (the D.) had forwarded the proposal to him, and that he was "very anxious to know what he would say." I immediately said I was sure FitzRoy would never leave *him* for any situation. He sat *musings*, as he often did when he was anxious upon any subject, and then said, "I don't know; it is a high situation and a very important post at this moment, and if the Govt. urges it, he may think it his duty to go. I have not said one word to bias him. I merely sent him the letter which I had received this morning from (I think) Gladstone, and told him to consider it, and let me have a speedy answer." I did not see FitzRoy that day, but having returned to the

Duke in the evening, his first words on my coming into the room were, "*Well, he has declined,*" with his face *lit up* with pleasure. I said, "I was sure he would not leave you." He answered, "I don't know what I should have done if he had." I told this to FitzRoy next day, and saw tears start to his eyes! but he said nothing. He never made *professions* or fine speeches; but where he loved and esteemed, his whole being, his look, his voice, seemed to overflow with tenderness and kindness.

